■ **COLLECTIONS**

The safe and sound world of life in a middle-class doll's house

There is an earthenware mixing bowl for dough on the bare wooden table, flanked by a copper ewer lined with zinc and a stone jar to keep the milk cool.

A broomstick of twigs leans against a wall that shows unmistakable traces of smoke from the stove. Handmade copper tins for cakes or blancmange grace a wooden worktable.

This is what the kitchen looks like in a rural doll's house, one of 40-odd exhibited at Altona Museum, Hamburg, by gallery-owner Elke Dröscher.

The earliest on show dates back to 1820 or so, the latest to about 1925. Each is an exact replica of a household 50 to 150 years ago.

The living room comes complete with a spinning wheel for the lady of the house and the morning papers for the gentleman.

Elegant furniture from various periods is set off against a background of lower pattern wallpaper and framed paintings.

With such attention to detail the chamber pot in the bedroom will clearly not be missing; nor is a folding high chair for baby.

From leaded windows to leather-bound books every item is solid workmanship, just as the real thing was.

Doll's houses are lived in by generations ranging from the first, earnest-



looking lady dolls of the early 19th century to the doll-like sweet young things of the turn of the century.

But this reality in miniature is, as Frau Dröscher, the collector, points out, only a part of reality, although dolls do seem to eat, sleep, go to school, shop at the milliner's, the grocer's and the dressmaker's, to supervise work in the kitchen and to celebrate Christmas.

But they only live the lives of upper middle-class families of their era. There is no such thing as a doll's house with a dozen or so members of a workman's family living in a two-up, two-down terraced house.

The doll's house world is a safe and sound world, with not even a suggestion of social conflict or its causes. By no means everyone lived a doll's life.

In the daily struggle for survival many children had no time even to play. Besides, a doll's house would have cost their parents the equivalent of a month's wages.

Dolls and doll's houses have always been part of the child's imitation of the grown-up world, but they did not assume educational importance until the child's world no longer had anything more in common with the world of work.

They were then deliberately used as educational toys with which girls were taught as they played to prepare for their later roles and wives and mothers.

Frau Dröscher's collection, which reflects the furniture, fashions and habits of a century, dates back to her grandparents' home.

While still a child she recalls exploring cellars and attics and poring over the contents of boxes of books, and crates.

Her collection, which grew over years, would almost certainly have developed into a small museum of ... and crafts had she not been ... turn-of-the-century doll's house ... ago.

As she enlarged her collection ... tried to restore items to their ... condition. Original wallpaper ... mould stains were, she felt, more ... tant than clean wallpaper added ...

Missing parts were replaced using ... iod materials. How did she make ... her fashions were true to period?

Frau Dröscher, who studied ... in Stuttgart, relied on her ... extensive collection of old postcards ...

(Bremer Nachrichten, 4 December ...)

Ribald jokes don't worry Munich potty collector

For years Munich company lawyer Manfred Klauda has been on the lookout for an out-of-the-ordinary hobby. Now he has hit on the ideal collector's item: the chamber pot.

He recently travelled to Bayreuth to bid in the first-ever auction of chamber pots. The auction cost him roughly DM20,000, but he is now the proud owner of 42 chamber pots from down the centuries.

He has naturally come in for a fair amount of ribaldry and ridicule, but they leave him unmoved.

"At my age," says Klauda, 43, "you cherish childhood memories." Besides, "other people collect stocks and ... why shouldn't I collect chamber pots?"

He plans to set up the world's ... museum of chamber pots, bidets, ... tubs and other sanitary fittings.

His sole regret is that there is so ... fundamental literature on a subject ... has for so long been taboo, although ... affects us all.

But Klauda reckons there is more ... the chamber pot than meets the ... and he is going to get to the bottom ... the subject.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 4 December ...)

The German Tribune

Hamburg, 3 February 1980
Nineteenth Year - No. 926 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

Bonn treads delicate path over crisis

Bonn can only play a part in trying to solve the dispute between the two major powers within the larger framework of the Western alliance.

And Bonn cannot be blamed for check- same time it must be careful not to break off the threads of detente with the East Bloc which it has been spinning so carefully for more than 10 years.

And Bonn cannot be blamed for checking whether vote-catching is playing a part in the various American proposals.

There is a danger also that events here, as well as in the US, could get caught up in electioneering.

The essential point here is to look at the map and study West Germany's position between the two power blocs. If things between the two world powers become even more serious and if the danger of escalation grows, the effects would not only be felt in the Middle East.

If the Federal Republic of Germany wishes to help prevent this, it does not need a grand coalition to make its contribution convincing.

What it does want is a wide consensus among the parties in the judgement of the situation and the weighing up of the available means. The talks between Government and Opposition in the Chancellor's Office have paved the way for such a consensus.

Nobody in Bonn has a patent recipe for the crisis in his pocket; not Schmidt nor Strauss; not Genscher nor Kohl.

Politicians have made many suggestions in public, ranging from advice to Schmidt to cancel his visit to GDR leader Honecker to talk of deploying the Bundeswehr on the Persian Gulf.

These proposals say more about politicians' obviously insatiable determination to have something to say about everything than about their good sense.

Has this country any possibility of playing a part in the concert of the great powers, a concert marked by discords?

West Germany is the USA's main ally in Western Europe and at the same time depend on US protection in Berlin.

At the same time, this country must be careful about maintaining detente with the East Bloc.

Otherwise it will endanger the improved human contacts between the two German states – inadequate though even these contacts may seem to those looking at what has been achieved from a Western point of view.

Solidarity with the US seems intact. The fact that Bonn did not immediately back up President Carter's call for a boycott of the Olympic Games is no proof of the contrary.

Perhaps Bonn was simply surprised by Carter's initiative and did not want to be just dragged along.

But must not the Bonn Government and the Americans ask what point there is in a boycott which is only upheld by part of the Western world.

The Third World countries voted against the Soviet Union in the United Nations. Would the Soviets not triumph if these countries disregarded Carter's Moscow boycott and turned up for the Olympic Games?

Yet if Carter were to carry out his threat and keep the US out of the Olympic Games, this country, given its dependence on US protection, would hardly have any choice than to follow suit.

This shows that the Federal Republic of Germany has little scope for going it alone. The same applies for the visit of Helmut Schmidt to GDR leader Honecker.

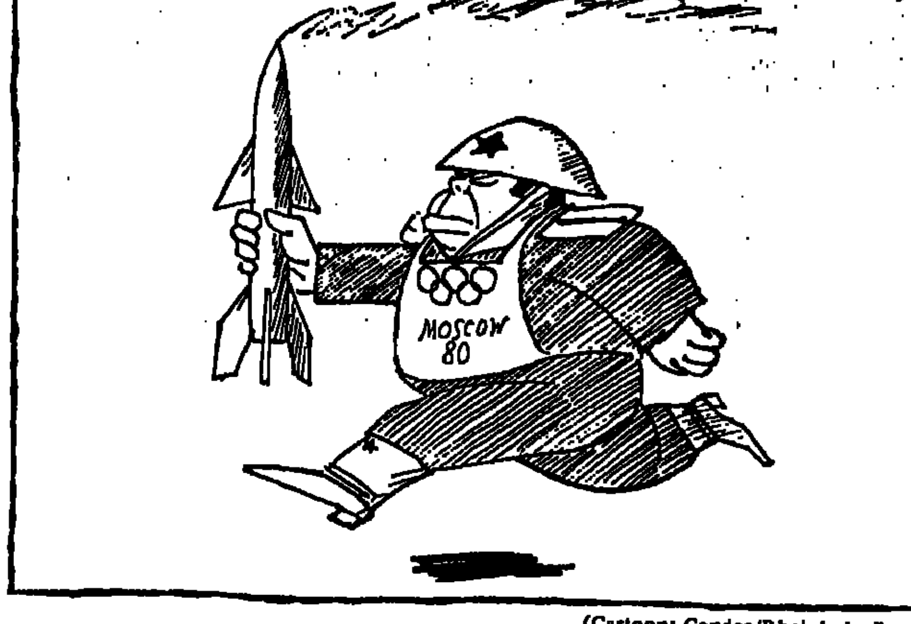
Without the blessing of Washington the Chancellor could hardly make this visit, even though the East German Communist leaders made a number of concessions to show that they did not want confrontation but detente.

Apart from the fact that there are no signs of such concessions at the moment, a visit by the Chancellor without US approval would be playing into the hands of those forces in the East that have been trying to drive a wedge between the Western partners.

Helmut Schmidt could rightly feel above the suspicion of being the handmaiden of such a policy, but the bad impression would still be there: on the one hand tough talk and even threats of war and on the other friendly patter as

Continued on page 6

IN THIS ISSUE



(Cartoon: Candea/Rheinische Post)

The true face of the Kremlin – at home and away

The Kremlin leaders have now shown their true face. They are aggressive abroad and repressive at home. They do not seem the least concerned about losing face.

The exile of Andrei Sakharov means that the Soviet Union has lost its last scruples about clamping down on its critics.

It only took a softer line as long as this promised to pay dividends.

The Kremlin knew exactly how much importance President Carter attached to human rights policies. And it did not want to anger him too much on this as long as important wishes could not be fulfilled without him: the limitation of strategic arms (Salt II) and economic cooperation, for example.

The tough reaction of the West, which probably surprised Moscow, and especially the response of the Third World to the invasion of Afghanistan, seem to have led the Kremlin rulers to the dangerous conclusion that if they are in for a penny they may as well be in for a pound; and they could now start using the same tough tactics in other areas.

This is an extremely awkward situation for all states that directly or indirectly have anything to do with the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union at the moment is unpredictable as an international partner.

It seems to regard the Olympic Games as dead and buried. How else is one to interpret the fact that the Kremlin has now shown such ruthlessness at a time when other countries are discussing the pros and cons of a boycott?

The youth of the world was invited to Moscow. This is where the last critical citizens are now being rounded up and taken away, so that no one can hear them any more.

Olaf Frühauf

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 23 January 1980)

Chances for Olympics diminish

Hannoversche Allgemeine

The Olympic Games can no longer be rescued unless the Soviet Union withdraws its troops from Afghanistan.

There seems little likelihood of this happening.

The chances of sportsmen from West Germany participating are the same as those of US athletes. That means slim — and getting slimmer all the time.

Bonn's attitude is far closer to that of President Carter than is generally supposed. However, Bonn still gives the impression that everything is still open, that nothing has been decided and that a decision can only be taken after discussions in many bodies, and with our Western allies.

There are two reasons for this.

The first is that Carter, with his boycott ultimatum to Moscow, virtually overrode his allies. On the other hand, the Bonn Government is cautious about making any move that would openly antagonise Moscow.

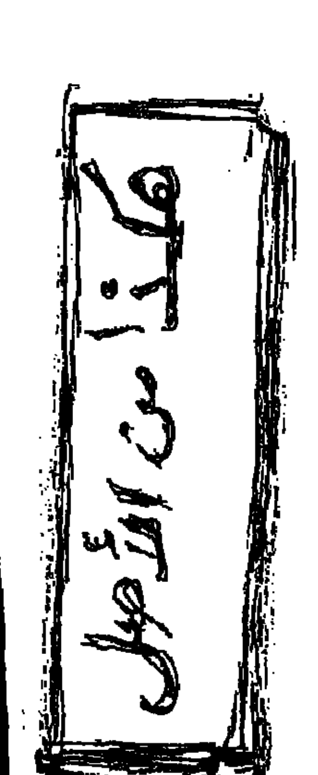
Helmut Schmidt describes this as prudent, while the Opposition calls it soft.

There are still those who would like to see sport kept out of the new tensions between East and West.

However, in Bonn, Government and Opposition politicians after the two rounds of talks in the Chancellor's Office, know that they cannot protect sport from political pressures.

The Sakharov case in Moscow has brought the Olympic Games even nearer the abyss.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 25 January 1980)



■ THE BALANCE OF POWER

Bonn spells out details of package to stabilise conflict area

Bonn is prepared to give more cash to Turkey as part of its role in backing up America in its confrontation with the Soviet Union.

It also is ready to give cash to help stabilise Pakistan and to embark on a plan of political and economic co-operation, within the framework of the European Community, with the Gulf States and Iran.

In addition, the Government would also relieve the United States and Britain of some of the financial burden if they become more involved, militarily, in areas of conflict.

This would mean that the defence Budget of the Federal Republic of Germany would have to be increased.

And this was one of the topics of discussion during the visit to Washington of the Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

He met with understanding for West Germany's special position, but America still feels that the priorities of German foreign policy in support of the US following the invasion of Afghanistan are not clearly enough defined.

Analysts are still working overtime trying to fathom the motives and intentions behind the Soviet invasion.

National interests are weighed against US expectations while Washington sees the military balance of the superpowers in jeopardy.

Much precious time is wasted in Western Europe through domestic policy *considerations and the fact that the European response calls for coordination within the EEC.*

Europe is unanimous in condemning the Soviet aggression and the hostage-taking in Tehran, and everybody is aware of the seriousness of the situation and the threat to peace that comes from it.

But the European nations differ on the effectiveness of countermeasures and the consequences arising from them not only in Moscow and Tehran but also in the conflict regions and in East-West relations.

American's decision making processes are also not yet completed.

Herr Genscher's timing for his visit to Washington was fortuitous. The Carter Administration and the American public are not yet fully agreed in their re-definition of US interests.

The question is: will Washington content itself with punishing the Soviet Union by one-shot sanctions such as a boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow or other temporary measures; or is Moscow's move to be countered by a new world-wide strategy aimed at re-establishing the balance of power?

In the light of such global considerations, the Tehran hostage affair takes second place.

The Bonn Government favours an overall concept of the Western states and a long-term united strategy within Nato and the EEC.

In an effort to share the burden, the various actions in support of America should be spread over several shoulders. Bonn has decided that its share should involve an additional financial shot in the arm for the Islamic Nato partner Turkey; financial assistance for the stabilisation of Pakistan; and political and economic cooperation within the framework of the European Company with the Gulf states and Iran.

Bonn is also prepared to help financially United States and Britain should they become more heavily militarily involved in the conflict region, which is outside Nato's purview.

It is as well here to recall the trauma of the 60s and the dispute between the "Europeans" and the "trans-Atlantics".

At that time, General de Gaulle was the protagonist of a "third force" between the two superpowers. His was a vision of a "Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals."

Ever since, Paris has stressed its "special relations" with the Soviet Union.

This was demonstrated again by the visit to Moscow of Chaban-Delmas, the speaker of the French National Assembly.

The visit was cut short in protest against the banishment of the Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov.

Another demonstration of these special relations was the visit a few days ago to Paris of Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Kornienko.

This "independent foreign policy", which France has pursued since the outbreak of the Middle East crisis, could encourage Moscow to attempt to drive a wedge between American and Europe.

It was pretty much agreed during the recent German-American consultations in Washington that Moscow was likely to embark on a "smile campaign".

And indeed, commentaries in the Eastern press are trying to tell Europe that the "American adventurers" are threatening European interests by the December decision to station nuclear warheads in various European countries (which would become the target of a nuclear counterattack by the Soviet Union).

The same applies, according to the Soviet press, to America's call on Europe to join in the trade boycott of the Soviet Union.

This, the Soviet media says, would harm economic interests — especially in the Federal Republic of Germany.

There is every likelihood that the Soviet offensive will zero-in on Bonn in an effort to split the alliance between Germany and the United States or to create a conflict between Germany and the other West European countries because of Germany's pro-American attitude. Either way, Bonn would be isolated.

Bonn soon realised what Moscow was driving at, and Herr Genscher was therefore particularly emphatic in stressing Germany's solidarity with America during his visit to Washington and in making it conspicuously clear that the Soviets have bet on the wrong horse.

This warning to the Soviets is one of the major points of Herr Genscher's policy.

In all likelihood, President Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance had primarily the Soviet Union in mind when they almost went overboard in stressing Germany's solidarity with America.

Bonn is so emphatic in promoting an overall Western concept and a unified strategy by the European Community because it fears a revival of the old 60s dispute.

The consultations between Chancellor Schmidt and President Giscard d'Estaing were part of the German concept of "restricting the damage."

Chaban-Delmas' demonstrative move when he cut short his visit to the Soviet Union gives rise to the hope that the Soviets have in fact miscalculated Western reactions.

The banishment of Sakharov - evidently intended to intimidate and demonstrate to the West that the Soviet Union is unfazed by the boycott - could have the unintended effect of unifying the West and strengthening solidarity with the United States.

Angela Nacken

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 January 1980)

Carter resists temptation to over-react

President Carter's State of the Union message did not revive the cold war. His address was firm and determined but not inciting.

He made it clear to the Soviet Union that it could go so far and no further in the Middle East.

But even the Russian media cannot say that Carter has thrown down the gauntlet for all areas of superpower relations and that he has arbitrarily put an end to all cooperation needed to preserve world peace.

The president has not succumbed to the temptation to overeact to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, although many quarters recommended tougher action and the nation as a whole would certainly have welcomed it.

His earlier remark that the Soviet invasion was the gravest threat to world peace since World War II, which caused a considerable stir, was later amended in his address to Congress when he said that it "could" prove so.

Carter did not minimise the Soviet aggression but his State of the Union message and, even more so, the subsequent interpretation of it by a high-ranking White House staffer, has somewhat mitigated the widely held impression that another world war was looming.

He warned the Soviet Union that any advance beyond Afghanistan to the Persian Gulf, which he termed of vital interest to the West, would lead to American countermeasures, including the use of military force.

He also stressed that the arms control policy would not be abolished. In giving these warnings, the president forged a link between necessity and commonsense.

Détente is not dead and must not be permitted to die because the alternative would be a policy of tension.

But whatever it is called in the future, detente must be endowed with a new legitimacy, and this would require, as President Carter put it, the Soviet Union to answer a few fundamental questions on its code of conduct.

This will not happen in the immediate future. To start with, President Carter holds the Soviet Union must bear the full brunt of Western outrage.

The president knows, of course, that punishing Moscow (be it by withholding high technology and grain or by boycotting the Olympic Games) cannot replace a counterstrategy by the West.

It was widely assumed for a while that the president wanted to come up with a Carter Doctrine modelled on the 1947 Truman Doctrine. Fortunately, this idea seems to have been dropped.

A new edition of the ideologically motivated containment strategy against the Soviet Union as implemented by President Truman after the outbreak of the cold war would not do justice to the entirely different political situation of today.

With remarkable objectivity, Carter said in a recent speech that the extension of Soviet military might to Afghanistan was only one of three reasons for the challenge now confronting the West.

The other two are the West's irresponsibly huge appetite for oil and the social, religious, economic and political upheavals in the Third World — especially the Islamic regions.

Facing the challenge therefore means coping with all three of these aspects, and not only with Soviet expansion.

Applying Carter's own yardsticks to his State of the Union message, there was much that remained unanswered.

He failed to define how the United States envisages the military, political and spiritual-cultural stabilisation of such a widely varied region as the Middle East.

He was, of course, right in saying that this was a long-term objective; but on the other hand, is it not dangerous to be as vague as Carter was in his message outlining policy for such an explosive region?

Is it nor possible that the United States is once more slithering into something without being fully aware of the consequences?

What exactly does this "cooperative security framework" mean of which Carter said that it would not be a conventional alliance? He did not even delineate its geographical boundaries.

Is it responsible on the part of the United States to become so widely involved militarily outside Europe and Japan as it has not been since the Vietnam war?

All this could lead to conflicts. There are many answers still outstanding on this central point. *Jürgen Krämer*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 25 January 1980)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Editor-in-Chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Simon Burnett. Distribution Manager: Georgine Picone.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH. 23 Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 76. Tel.: 22 85 1. Telex: 02-14733.

Advertising rates list No. 13 — Annual subscription DM 35

Printed by Druck- und Verlagshaus Friedrich Pörtner, Bremen-Blumenthal. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, NY 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprints are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes quarterly supplements featuring articles selected from German periodicals.

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper, between asterisks, above your address.

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Opposition campaign develops doubts



Doubts are creeping into the campaign of the CDU/CSU Opposition with less than nine months to go before the election.

There are signs of resignation already, at a time when it was hoped that the militant phase of the campaign would get under way.

The Shadow Chancellor, Franz Josef Strauss, confused friend and foe alike again. Instead of sounding the expected attack, he has surprised the Chancellor by proposing that they discuss their common ground.

Whatever his motives for this offer, it is a step in the right direction. In a functioning democracy, it ought to be self evident that Government and Opposition exchange information, especially in crises.

This proposal is more risky for Strauss than for Schmidt. Some will say it proves Strauss's capacity to learn; others will interpret it as a sign of weakness and uncertainty.

At any rate, Strauss will scarcely be able to prevent his visit to Schmidt being interpreted as a sign of Opposition doubts that they can win against Schmidt, even with Strauss.

There are reasons for these doubts. All the polls show that Strauss trails hopelessly behind Schmidt in the popularity stakes. Voters believe that Schmidt is the right pilot.

Furthermore the global crisis has brought the Chancellor further advantages.

He has a reputation as a reliable crisis manager. Why then should the voters opt for someone who has a reputation as a strong man but has not been able to prove that he could guide this country with the same supreme composure?

If the Chancellor were to show any weaknesses, if he were to stray too far from the side of the US in the difficult balancing act between Washington and Moscow, then Strauss could be more hopeful about the elections. But there *are no signs of this so far.*

The present situation is extremely unfavourable for the challenger. If he does not want to lose more ground to Schmidt, he will not be able to crack the whip as uninhibitedly as he had perhaps planned.

But the more he moves away from polemics and polarisation, the more he will disappoint those who thought that only Strauss, who can arouse political emotions like no other, could bring about a change of government in Bonn.

These developments are all the more surprising, as the CDU and CSU thought they had reached their first goal.

Up to now they have had to master the far-from-easy task of persuading the CDU to support a candidate who had humiliated them and put pressure on them for years.

However, rightly realising that after his great coup there was no alternative, the leading men in the CDU have subordinated their own wishes and convictions to the attempt to win the election with Strauss.

This does not mean that Strauss has succeeded in dispersing, in the party, all doubts about him.

There are still men and women in the CDU who acknowledge his political talent and concede that he has more ability to become a people's tribune than any other on the political stage — but still have their reservations.

They realise that he is volatile, rigorous, and tends to be polemical. This inspires more fear than trust.

This is why both friends and enemies were amazed at how smoothly and painlessly the Opposition and its Shadow Chancellor, after the years of attrition and heavily publicised rivalries, reached the first stage along the road to their goal.

Many a CDU man may have found this self-denial relatively easy, assuming that the real test for Strauss is still to come.

In the militant phase of the election Strauss will have to show that he is capable of coming up with something besides rhetoric to win over those voters who have so far mistrusted him.

Ludwig Harms

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 23 January 1980)

Concern over dangers in Middle East

The Bonn government sees possible dangers of escalation in the international situation, according to spokesmen Armin Grünewald.

He spoke after a cabinet meeting at which Foreign Minister Genscher reported on his trip to the US.

Herr Grünewald indicated that Bonn's main concern is about the Middle East.

The Bonn Government has agreed on the following measures as a contribution to the West's overall strategy:

- Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer was asked to start an initiative for special aid to Turkey within the OECD. The sum involved was DM400m.
- The Finance Minister was also asked to consider participation in an international consolidation programme for Pakistan. Bonn is to play a leading part in this scheme.
- Within the EEC, Foreign Minister Genscher will prepare political and economic cooperation with the Arab Gulf states, including Iraq.

Herr Genscher suggested a cooperation agreement of this kind at the recent meeting of the EEC foreign ministers in Brussels. There was general agreement with this proposal.

The cabinet expressed satisfaction that President Carter, members of his government and leading senators had expressed their appreciation of West German solidarity.

(Die Welt, 24 January 1980)

Schmidt and Strauss get together

Helmut Schmidt and Franz Josef Strauss at the same table: the Chancellor and his challenger together seeking ways of getting West Germany out of the crisis caused by Moscow.

The very fact that the two most important and influential politicians are meeting at all is an event in itself.

What in many countries is normal political practice is the exception in Bonn.

The *most recent* meeting between Schmidt and Strauss also marks a turning point in the home political scene. The effects cannot be exactly predicted, just as the precise background to the meeting is not yet clear. However, some lines do emerge.

First of all, there is a wide measure of agreement in the judgement of the ground about counter measures.

Then there is a great deal of common ground on coordination about necessary counter measures.

Both Opposition and Government realise that many hard and expensive moves need to be taken, ranging from the stocking up of the fuel and ammunition stores of the Bundeswehr to a new division of tasks and labour within Nato.

And despite the loud arguments about the right expression of solidarity with Washington, there is tacit agreement in the need to stay away from the Olympic Games unless Soviet troops are withdrawn from Afghanistan.

Nordwest Zeitung

Despite this pleasing degree of agreement, serious differences remain. Speculation that the talk between the Opposition and the coalition could lead to an all-party agreement is wide of the mark.

The talks could however be the start of an improvement in the atmosphere which would make it easier to stick together in crisis situations in future.

The interests of the community as a whole have often been sold short disregarded in party quarrels. This could now change.

The seriousness of the world situation could not prevent the general election also playing an important part in the meeting between the two leaders.

Indeed perhaps it was the election that made the meeting possible. The more such meetings there are, the more this will suit Strauss. The more often the Chancellor consults him, the less often he can attack him in the election.

Everything indicates that FDP leader Genscher was also interested in this summit meeting.

It is remarkable how far Genscher and Strauss agree in their assessment of the world situation.

FDP party floor leader Mischnick, on the other hand, seems to have his doubts about too-close an a rapprochement with the Opposition.

The voter of course is not so interested in all this tactical manoeuvring. What counts for him is that unity and not differences of opinion is important in Bonn now.

Rows are not the only way of winning votes. *Hans Wolff*

(Nordwest Zeitung, 25 January 1980)

Reforming Nato 'the best way' of averting crisis

Shadow Chancellor Franz Josef Strauss believes that reforming Nato is the best way to skirt a crisis stemming from the Middle East.

He said that the alternative to prevent endangered energy supplies, mass unemployment and the defeat of democracy in Germany was decisive steps which would include military action.

"I believe we can prevent such a crisis," he said.

Strauss outlined his ideas rather more fully, though not in final detail, at a press conference in Bonn.

He said that Nato, founded in 1949 under completely different conditions, must now extend its defence area to include the Middle East.

The requisite military presence there would be provided not by West Germany but by the Americans, the British and the French.

This would however mean that the Federal Republic of Germany would have to fill the gaps left by these troops in Europe.

Strauss did not go into the question whether this would mean increasing the size of the Bundeswehr.

But he answered it indirectly when he said that, at the troop reduction talks in Vienna, the West could not accept Soviet demands for limits to the number of troops from a certain country within the two blocs.

Strauss called for complete solidarity with the US. He said that in his opinion Chancellor Schmidt an President Giscard d'Estaing were only prepared to show part solidarity.

They rejected the proposal for economic sanctions gainst the Soviet Union on the grounds that they were ineffective and only damaged the economies of West Germany and of France.

He said the impression should not be given that the Europeans gave higher priority to business with the Soviet Union.

Asked what sanctions he proposed, Strauss said he did not have the information needed to make such a decision.

This was also a matter for the government. However, he showed far more reserve than sympathy for certain kinds of sanctions.

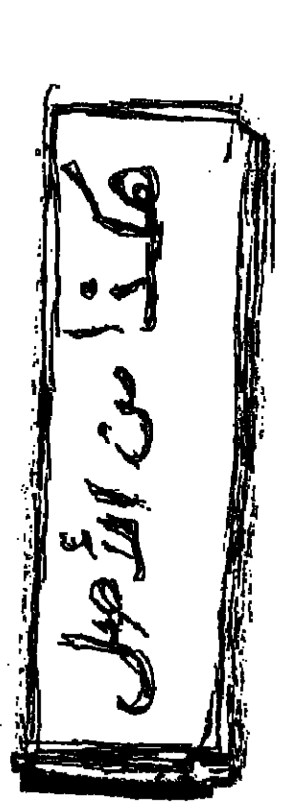
He said that he did not think the limits on American wheat deliveries to the Soviet Union would make them withdraw from Afghanistan.

As for the ban on deliveries of computers, Strauss asked whether the Soviets were really dependent on American technology. He said they had sophisticated computer equipment in their missiles.

Strauss dissociated himself from the CDU call for a boycott of the Moscow Olympics, saying that he was not "shouting loudest in the argument."

Hans Werner Kettenbach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 24 January 1980)



■ DEFENCE

Dissident army officer upsets minister

The affair of Major General Gert Bastian is the second blow involving a senior army officer in little over a year.

The other was the resignation of Inspector-General Harald Wust in November 1978.

Both episodes have given Defence Minister Hans Apel more than a little anxiety.

What make the Bastian case more unpalatable for the minister is that he had come out in protection of the general just a year ago when he came under fire from the Opposition for publicly supporting Herbert Wehner's theory that Soviet armaments are purely defensive.

Two things have angered Herr Apel. The first is the form in which General Bastian asked to be retired, and the second — much more important — is the arrogance with which he as a soldier pilloried as wrong a decision made not only by his government but by the Nato Alliance as a whole, saying that he could no longer go along with it.

There are no two ways about it: General Bastian, commander of the 12th Armoured Division, certainly put his foot in it when he told a conference of senior officers that he intended to retire prematurely for political reasons.

It was not until a day later that he sent a registered letter to the minister.

But then he seems to have had second thoughts and telephoned the Defence Ministry to tell Herr Apel's secretary that a letter was on the way.

The minister, informed of the contents of the letter, made his decision on the spot: General Bastian was to be relieved of this command immediately. His request for premature retirement was turned down.

The minister said that it was unthinkable for a soldier who has sworn allegiance to the Federal Republic of Germany and its elected institutions simply to retire because he disagreed with official policy.

If Herr Bastian, he said, really had pangs of conscience, he was free to leave the *Bundeswehr* but he would then lose all claims to a pension, which is considerable.

As a major general, he earns DM7,800 a month, and his pension would be around DM5,900.

The state would only have to pay back dues on his social secruity, and this would provide him with a social security pension of around DM2,000 a month.

It seems that Herr Apel would like to push General Bastian into doing exactly that.

Through his press officer, the minister announced that he was considering giving General Bastian a desk job. (This has meanwhile been done and the general has accepted.)



Major General Gert Bastian
(Photo: dpa)

The Opposition, of course, sees the whole affair in a very different light.

CSU military expert Voigt said that there was no activity within the *Bundeswehr* in which General Bastian was supportable.

The reason given by Voigt was that, if the general found himself unable to support a government and Nato decision then he could hardly have any allegiance towards his state.

CSU Secretary-General Stoiber somewhat indelicately referred to General Bastian as "commander of Herbert Wehner's private guard." He said the whole affair was unprecedented in the *Bundeswehr.*

No other general who retired or was made to retire prematurely has ever publicly stated that he disagrees with our entire security policy. *Gisbert Kuhn*

(Kieler Nachrichten, 19 January 1980)

Conscientious objection still a hurdle

The Bundestag hearing on conscientious objectors was ill-timed.

While churches and all sorts of people organisations keep emphasising that it is impossible to sit in judgment over conscience, pragmatists came up with convincing figures.

The drop in the birth rate has also made politicians and the military ponder possibilities of extending national service beyond the present 15 months.

Statistics and philosophising on a person's conscience are not easily reconcilable.

The ideal situation where a young man is able to choose between "peace service" and military service becomes unrealistic when statistics dictate the strictest fulfilment of duties.

This was borne out a few months ago when the SPD and FDP managed to pass a law that enables anybody to avoid national service on the grounds of conscience by sending the draft board a postcard to that effect.

Because the law made it so easy, the number of young men who suddenly discovered their conscience doubled. The Constitutional Court has since put an end to this.

But the problem remains. And there is nothing to indicate that the hearing has done anything to speed up a solution.

The worst thing about the current discussion is the alternative of "war service" or civilian service, dubbed "peace service". *Siegfried Michl*

(Nordwest Zeitung, 17 January 1980)

Women may be the answer

Karl-Wilhelm Berkhan, the *Bundestag* ombudsman for the Bundeswehr, no longer excludes the possibility of extending national service and the use of women for administrative work in the armed forces.

In times of low birth rates this could help secure the strength of the *Bundeswehr,* he said.

The ombudsman, who was confirmed in office for another five years by 416 votes to 30 (six abstentions) warned against ignoring facts and acting as if nothing would change in the 80s.

He called on policy makers to seek solutions to the problems facing us.

An extension of the present 15-month service by only one month would fill 10,000 military posts, said Herr Berkhan.

The ombudsman called on politicians to "give careful consideration to the possibility of using girls in certain sectors of the armed forces such as offices and kitchens."

Herr Berkhan stressed that they should be employed as civilians rather than soldiers. *Karl-Heinz Hahslach*

(Nordwest Zeitung, 18 January 1980)

A joint effort

Bonn and Paris are planning to produce and develop jointly an assault tank for the 90s.

The defence ministries of the two countries are to sign an agreement to this effect in the summer.

The project is to be carried out by MaK-Krauss-Maffel Sondertechnik (MKS), Hamburg, and the and the French company GIAT.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 23 January 1980)

Bundeswehr faces an anxious time

The *Bundeswehr* is troubled by overaging among its officers and by alienation among the troops.

It is also burdened more by bureaucracy than any other army in the Western world.

It is not enough to measure an armed force by its reliability and its democratic substance or the quality of its armament.

The decisive question is whether it will be able to fulfil its function when it comes to the crunch and whether it can at any given moment make this credible.

It is on this score that the *Bundeswehr* has every reason to be concerned.

In the late 60s, the Defence Ministry tried to recruit career soldiers with an advertising slogan that spoke of the *Bundeswehr* as "the firm that produces security."

The authors of this slogan had no idea how much attitude would pervade the officer corps and become the organisational principle and leadership method of our armed forces.

The intention was to strip soldiering of its martial image and to cover up the contradiction inherent in the fact that the soldier must constantly practise the art of killing so that he should never have to use it.

Meanwhile, the *Bundeswehr* has actually become a "firm", as borne out by a survey made by a special commission headed by former Inspector-General Ulrich de Maizière.

Quoting many examples, the report shows that the Bundeswehr is engaged in a constant process of streamlining, centralising, specialising and regulating.

The net result is that nobody feels responsible anymore. Everybody first refers to regulations with the idea of finding somebody to whom to pass the buck should something go wrong.

The report states: "This development supplants any person-related leadership in favour of a perfectionist and anonymous system.

"The will to leadership is increasingly concentrating on organisational and structural solutions."

And, even worse: "The survey shows that the *Bundeswerhr,* while being functional and technically efficient, reveals a cooling off of the personal atmosphere which, in some instances, can even be termed frosty."

It is very difficult to wage war with soldiers who feel administered and who view their superiors as business managers rather than comrades-at-arms.

The crux of the matter is that the deterrent loses its credibility. This is further aggravated by the fact that 42 per cent of the officers are over 40, and that thiis figure will rise to 60 per cent by 1985 and 75 per cent by 1990.

Nobody has as yet devised a recipe with which to combat this. The negative effect of it is two-fold.

On the one hand, company and battalion commanders are frequently 20 years older than their troops and thus physically no longer in a position to cope with all the duties expected of them. They also find it difficult to understand their young troops.

On the other hand, the fact that officer posts are filled with men who are relatively old but still have a long way to go before retirement leads to a promotion bottleneck, especially among captains.

Those familiar with army life know the importance of promotion to any career soldier.

The officer corps of the *Bundeswehr* is no longer motivated by the old idea that it is an honour to serve the nation.

The younger officers especially expect to be paid and rewarded for their performance as they would be in any civilian job. But above all they expect to be given an opportunity to show what they can do.

A company commander who stands little chance in the foreseeable future of being put in charge of a battalion is bound to lose interest in his work.

It has always been in the best military tradition of Germany for the top leadership to set the target and leave it to the lower ranking officers to achieve it in the way they consider best. In other words, there was plenty of scope.

This applied not only to military action in war but also presupposed flexibility, adjustment to a given situation, initiative, imagination and willingness to take a chance.

It is exactly this that is lacking in today's *Bundeswehr.*

The de Maizière report puts it in a nutshell: "Day-to-day military life in the *Bundeswehr* shows a creeping deterioration of this principle."

The time has come to do something about it. *Hans Schueler*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 23 January 1980)

■ NAZI WAR CRIMES

Drawn-out Maidanek trial goes into its fifth year



Almost everything that could have happened has happened during the trial in Düsseldorf of alleged Maidanek concentration camp officials.

In the four years since the trial began:

- The presiding judge collapsed
- Another judge went to hospital for weeks with a slipped disc
- One of the accused and a member of the jury died
- A defence counsel gave up his brief because he was about to be excluded from the trial
- There was an instance of an accused and witnesses collaborating
- Some cases had to be tried separately because the accused were ill, and the court spent hours discussing motions for rejection of the charges.

It seems that nothing is impossible in this trial — not even the distressing prediction that after all these years perhaps no sentences will be passed, or the accused will be too old or too ill to start their sentences.

This monster trial is also a model trial: how, 30 years after the events can justice be done? Is there a form of justice which is unintentionally unjust?

The trial "of Hackmann and others" is now into its fifth year. On the 380th day, the following happened:

The expert witness on Nazi history was giving evidence for the third time, when the defence counsel for Hildegard Lächert raised his hand to say that his client was feeling unwell.

Land medical officer Hindringer ruled that Hildegard Lächert was not well enough to go on. The judge adjourned the case for an hour.

After this break, the court was told that Hildegard Lächert had been taken to hospital. She had the symptoms of a heart attack and would not be able to take part in the trial for several days.

The prosecutors applied for her case to be dealt with separately so that the court could go on hearing the evidence of the expert witness and questioning other witnesses. The court adjourned for discussion again.

It then rejected the defence petition. The state prosecutors proposed that Hildegard Lächert's arrest be suspended for her time in hospital and the court agreed.

It was then shortly before 11 am, time for the questioning of Helena Kurcusz, a 65-year-old Polish witness, to begin. Mrs Kurcusz spent many years in Maidanek and only survived because as an architect she was responsible for supervising the building of paths and canals.

She had already been to Düsseldorf once before and had not been able to give evidence because the accounts of her statements to Polish courts had not arrived in time. The day before, when she saw the accused, she broke down.

Mrs Kurcusz said that day that Hildegard Lächert had been known among the inmates of the camp as "bloody Brigida" because she was never satisfied until she drew blood after beating prisoners and kicking them with her steel capped-boots.

She said that Lächert had beaten up a female prisoner because she wore newspaper under her clothes to protect her from the cold. Mrs Kurcusz was due to give further evidence against Hildegard Lächert on the 380th day of the trial.

The presiding judge explained what had happened to Lächert and asked her if Kurcusz would be prepared to come back to Düsseldorf to give evidence at a later date. She nodded that she would.

The counsel for the prosecution then applied for Mrs Kurcusz to be allowed to give her evidence to the court when it next goes to Poland, to save her the trouble of another long journey.

And the trial was again adjourned. The number of adjournments and delays can only be estimated.

One group of accused goes home, the others are taken back to prison. The jurymen rush off to lunch, the defence counsel to their chambers.

As the state prosecutors leave the courthouse, they can hardly believe their eyes: there goes Hildegard Lächert, accompanied by two policemen.

The doctors at the hospital had sent her back, saying the symptoms were not serious. The warrant is immediately renewed. But the trial cannot be continued on this day. Lächert is taken to Bochum prison hospital.

A few days after the beginning of the trial, Simon Wiesenthal described it as a circus. And another critic described the ponderous and time-consuming trial as a "tragi-face."

Was Hildegard Lächert simply malingering? There is no evidence of this. Did she work herself up into such a state that she suffered the collapse? Her justified fear of being further incriminated by the Polish witness would suggest this.

It was not the first time in this trial that one of the accused broke down in face of the weight of evidence against him. Nor was it the first time Hildegard Lächert had done so.

Lächert is one of the main accused and must reckon with life imprisonment if found guilty.

She is a 59-year-old unskilled worker from Heidelberg. Her last job was as a char in a brothel.

Last year she was a candidate for the Free Europe Action Community, an extreme right-wing organisation, in the European elections.

She is accused of having abetted murder in at least 1196 cases. She took part in selection, led victims to the gas chambers, and enticed children into the lorries which took them to the gas chambers by offering them sweets.

Everyone, according to the evidence, knew bloody Brigida, everyone was afraid of "the then fine-looking young woman."

None of the survivors could forget her hands, boots and eyes.

One witness said that she loved blood, another said with a *trembling voice:* "there is no more evil person in the world."

On 7 March 1978, the 243rd day of the trial, Lore Scadur of Tel Aviv said in evidence: "She was a wicked woman. Her whip seemed to be part of her hand."

Today this woman, who once a fury, bemoans her fate: "I had no choice then."

If things continue at this rate in the 17th Chamber of the Düsseldorf Land Court, then perhaps sentences will be pronounced in 1981.

Then bloody Brigida, one of the youngest of the accused, will be 60, and perhaps she will be so weak and sick that she will not need to go to prison.

What then will have been the point of this lengthy, expensive, time and energy-consuming trial? Will it in the end have been little more than pauses and procedural points?

Despite everything, the trial recorded *part of an appalling aspect of German history.*

An attempt was made to do justice. An attempt ... *Dietrich Strothmann*

(Die Zeit, 25 January 1980)

Hildegard Lächert
(Photo: dpa)

Lischka 'a desk murderer', prosecutor accuses

The prosecution has asked for two former high-ranking SS officials in Nazi-occupied France to be imprisoned for 12 years.

And it wants a third to be given five years.

All three were accused of aiding and abetting mass murder.

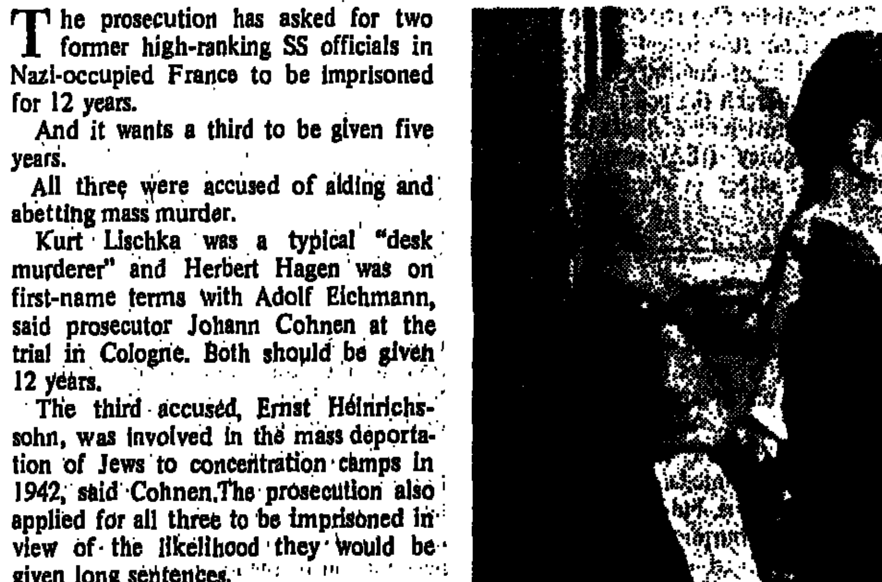
Kurt Lischka was a typical "desk murderer" and Herbert Hagen was on first-name terms with Adolf Eichmann, said prosecutor Johann Cohnen at the trial in Cologne. Both should be given 12 years.

The third accused, Ernst Heinrichssohn, was involved in the mass deportation of Jews to concentration camps in 1942, said Cohnen.The prosecution also applied for all three to be imprisoned in view of the likelihood they would be given long sentences.

The documents the court had seen and the evidence of witnesses clearly proved that all three were fully aware of the true meaning of deportation and the final destination, Auschwitz.

The circumstances in which these deportaions took place alone ought to have been enough to make them realise that the deported Jews were going to be murdered.

Johann Cohnen said at the end of his submission that there could be no sufficient atonement for these crimes, which were unparalleled in history.



Kurt Lischka
(Photo: Sven Simon)

Former *Obersturmbannführer* Kurt Lischka was a typical "desk murderer". The state prosecutors say that he is "indisputably incriminated" by documents clearly indicating that the deportations of Jews were "journies of no return."

Lischka had previously worked for the Gestapo in Berlin and would thus have known about plans to annihilate the Jews.

In Paris he worked in a department which had jurisdiction over the entire French police and could use the gendarmerie for raids.

Herbert Hagen, 66, was on first-name terms with Adolf Eichmann. He actually saw Jews being deported and gave "scientific encouragement" to the deportations.

The prosecution said he was merely trying to protect himself by claiming that he did not know what was happening to the Jews, but that this was impossible.

Ernst Heinrichssohn, 59, mayor of Bürgstadt in Franconia, had an important post in the department for Jewish Questions, *despite his protestations* to the contrary.

The prosecution regards it as proven that Heinrichssohn had old and sick Jews taken from the Rothschild hospital to be depected and was also present at the transportation of children.

The trial had disproved his claim that he only did desk work. The mass deportation in 1942 was his main area of work. This was when most of the 43,000 Jews deported were deported.

State prosecutor Cohnen ended his plea with the words: "The accused would never have become criminals if it had not been for Nazi rule."

But on the other hand the Third Reich would never have been able to commit its crimes without people of this kind." *Ingrid Müller*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 January 1980)

■ FINANCE/ENERGY

Political upheavals threaten the international money markets

The global political upheaval in the wake of the Iran crisis and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan threatens the international money markets.

An added danger is the 100bn US dollars in surplus Opec revenues that is likely to hit the money markets in search of investment possibilities.

Nobody knows in which direction this huge amount of oil money will flow.

The enormous ups and downs on the gold market give an indication of the chaos that the stray oil billions could cause on the money markets unless they are channeled.

The balance of payments deficits of the oil-consuming countries are growing bigger and bigger and are forcing them to seek new credits.

Risks are borne by the subsidiaries of the world's major banks that have settled in such financial centres as London, Luxembourg and sone of the islands off the US coast.

Together, they form the Euromarket which already accounts for some 600bn US dollars in deposits and credits — and all this for account and at the risk of the Eurobanks.

Small wonder, then, that there are so many worried faces on the Euromarket. The main question is whether, as after the first oil shock of 1973/74, the recycling in the form of credits of the oil billions via the Eurobanks to the consumer countries will work.

Unlike then, this is no longer a quantitative problem only but has, on top of it, become a political issue and a question of faith.

The Americans have frozen the Iranian government's deposits in retaliation for the hostage-taking in Tehran. The freeze applies not only to Iranian accounts in the United States but also to those with the foreign subsidiaries of American banks.

But the US banks in London and Luxembourg are not subject to American law. The United States has thus obviously gone too far in its money blockade — but the final answer will have to come from the courts.

Regardless of the outcome of the litigation, the thing that matters is that this is the first time that a government has intervened on the Euromarket.

With all understanding for Washington's position, this has greatly worried the non-American banks. Banks depend on faith, and this has now been shaken.

A bit more circumspection on the part of the Americans and coordination among all Eurobanks would have been desirable because, ultimately, the banks of the world are all in the same boat.

There is talk now of a financial boycott of the Soviet Union. If this has any basis in fact it would seem that such demands have not been thought out to the final consequences.

Notwithstanding warnings, the East Bloc has long been considered a good borrower and has therefore received preferential treatment. Even American banks have had a generous hand in trade with the Soviet Bloc.

If the Russians and other East Bloc countries were now to be blocked on the Euromarket we would have to face the possibility of their retaliating. They would probably hit not only the American banks by delaying repayment of principal and interest.

After all, the major consortium credits mostly involve all big Eurobanks, and these credits are now said to amount to 50bn US dollars.

The freezing of Iranian deposits has caused uncertainty on the money markets. One of the consequences is that big depositors steer clear of certain banks in certain places.

Instead, they try to channel more money to hard currency countries outside America, and this could create problems for the Federal Republic of Germany.

German banks fear that the credit consortiums could split into American and non-American Eurobanks.

It stands to reason that by reducing these consortiums in size the volume of individual credits would also have to be reduced. In addition, the individual risks of the banks would become bigger once the American banks are no longer in the consortiums.

Who would suffer from such a split of the money markets? Primarily the poor developing countries. They have in any event become an above-average credit risk, many of them being deep in the red.

The non-oil-exporting developing countries will need an estimated 40bn US dollars for oil imports alone in 1980. And it is certain that they can raise only a fraction of this amount through exports.

The dilemma that could eventually face the Euromarket is that certain Eurobanks will be overrun with deposits from some quarters.

But even though floating in money these banks would lack the courage to put some of it to work in the form of credits. In a number of cases the Eurobanks will find themselves forced to throw good money after bad in order to safeguard what they have already invested. A case in point is Brazil which though already owing 50bn US dollars cannot be dropped. And this year Brazil will need an additional 15bn dollars, most of it to pay interest on old debts.

For the first time since the existence of international money and capital markets, the Eurobanks are now openly asking for how long and to which extent the Euromarket will manage to handle alone the many new political and economic risks.

More and more banks will soon be calling for government guarantees before granting new credits.

Dr Walter Seipp, board member of Westdeutsche Landesbank whose Luxembourg subsidiary bears its share of the risks, minced no words when he said: "1980 is likely to see a greater reticence of international banks in granting credit to developing countries. I sincerely hope that governments and the IMF will help solve this problem."

This would mean that the state would have to become a partner on the Euromarket because the market itself is overtaxed.

There is no telling what this would mean for the freedom and flexibility of international banking.

Heinz Brestel

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 21 January 1980)

Warning over nuclear power delays

West Germany's position as an industrial nation would be put in jeopardy if resistance to nuclear power and coal liquefaction plants continued, warns Bonn Economic Affairs Minister, Count Lambsdorff.

He expects local resistance to some of these installations to go on.

He told *Die Welt* that the development of nuclear energy is dragging, even taking into account reduced energy needs because of slower growth.

He reiterated that Opec strategy was to provide the consumer nations with only just enough oil to satisfy their needs and keep their economies going — and that as expensively as possible.

The minister also stressed that should supplies from Iran be cut off completely or should other countries cut back we would soon reach the point at which the rationing provisions of the International Energy Agency (IEA) would have to come into effect (a shortfall of 7 per cent).

"And a liberal energy policy along market economy lines cannot be maintained once retioning is introduced on a global scale."

Though other suppliers, like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, are prepared temporarily to make good the shortfall from Iran, he said, we must not expect that they will do so indefinitely.

Count Lambsdorff said Germany's future natural gas supplies from the Soviet Union was a "difficult issue."

This was due to the fact that Iran was not fulfilling its part of the tripartite (Tehran-Moscow-Bonn) agreement and that this is making it difficult for the Soviet Union to meet its own supply obligations towards European buyers.

Like the oil producers among the industrialised countries (USA, Britain and Norway) who refuse to increase production to the limit, the Opec countries have also criticised Germany's slowness in developing nuclear energy.

What matters is to make it clear to the oil producers that the switchover takes a number of years and that Opec must in its own interests provide the necessary oil in the meantime.

In any event, Count Lambsdorff concedes that the development of neclear energy is dragging — even taking into account the reduced energy needs due to slower growth.

Concerning energy saving, he said that the Bonn government would relatively soon reach the limits of what can be done without seriously curtailing growth.

He continues to stick to the principle of liberal, market economy arrangements though he is prepared to accept [illegible] dos and don'ts if there is a chance that they will prove more effective.

But they should remain the exception rather than the rule. After all, the Bonn Government has coped in the past without such regulations.

The cabinet's paper on energy policy strategy will also deal with the [illegible] and liquefaction of coal.

The minister did not say whether exact figures will be provided.

Asked whether German business should not invest more money in coal mining in North America or Colombia, he said that this was a more "long-term issue."

The problem where coal is concerned, he said, was not so much the quantity [illegible] the price. Due to the relatively [illegible] price of German coal, he considers it likely that imports will gain in importance in the next few years.

Heinz He[illegible]

(Die Welt, 18 January 1980)

Count Lambsdorff

(Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

Delicate path

Continued from page 1

if the world consisted only of the two German states.

Bonn can only play a part in efforts to solve the crisis within the larger framework of the West. And the Bonn Government is prepared to do so.

No one can blame Bonn, however, for checking whether vote-catching may not play some part in the various American proposals. Bonn must also be careful to act together with its Western partners, especially France.

This is a balancing act hardly less difficult than that between American wishes and our own interests which despite everything must be directed towards a balancing out of interests with the East. So far little has been heard from Bonn about participation in economic sanctions against the Soviets. The reason for this is not that Bonn does not want to, but simply that it cannot — unless at the price of breaches of contract, which would have unforeseeable economic consequences.

Of course Bonn can in future be much less accommodating about Eastern requests for loans, but Bonn has has no possibility of hurting Moscow without exposing itself to counter-measures — unlike Carter in the cases of the cuts in wheat deliveries.

All that remains as a clear sign of solidarity with the US is Bonn's willingness to take over tasks within Nato and thus release American forces for deployment elsewhere.

Bonn would also be ready to take on financial and economic tasks in the crisis area — but not military tasks.

Reiner Dederichs

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 January 1980)



■ BUSINESS

New man in hot seat as electrical giant struggles for survival

The supervisory board of Germany's electrical giant, the AEG concern, has appointed Heinz Dürr, 46, to succeed Walter Cipa as chairman of the board proper.

Herr Dürr is thus elevated to the hot seat of the company, which is in deep financial trouble. The appointment amounts to a final effort to save the concern, and is one of the toughest tasks to confront a German chief executive.

The situation was put crisply by Cipa himself: if Dürr fails, "the only alternative would be bankruptcy."

No one knew of the appointment before the public announcement.

But then, there were only a dozen people who knew about it in the first place, among them chairman of the supervisory board, Hans Friderichs of the Dresdner Bank; Wilfried Guth of the Deutsche Bank; and, of course, Dürr's wife Heide; plus a close personal friend with whom Dürr had discussed the matter.

It was Guth and Merkle, who knew Dürr better than Friderichs did, who suggested him shortly before Christmas. The final decision fell between Christmas and New Year at Dürr's home in Stuttgart.

His nomination on 22 January was preceded by a 13-hour extraordinary stockholders' meeting in Berlin. In the end, more than 90 per cent of the 1,465 stockholders present voted for the tough rehabilitation concept presented by the old board.

The stockholders were begging to be told who the new chief executive would be — in vain.

In fact, not even Cipa knew. And neither did his deputy, Horst Brandt, himself a possible choice. Only 24 hours earlier, Brandt had said: "I wish for my own and the company's sake that they don't pick me."

In any event, it was almost a foregone conclusion that the new chief executive would not come from the company's own ranks.

Dürr, a 170-pound six-footer, is a passionate billiard player who was jogging long before it became a trend.

For the past year, he has been a member of the CDU and has run the family manufacturing business for many years.

After graduating from secondary school, he was apprenticed as a mechanic.

Then he studied mechanical engineering, though he abandoned this when the family business needed him as head of the design department. At that time, the business was still very small, with sales of about DM750,000 a year.

Dürr took the helm during the 1967 recession when it became obvious that his brother, Reinhold, had no ambition in that direction.

In a dozen years Dürr developed the business into a factory specialised in spraypainting machinery for automobiles, environment protection technology



and conveyor belts. The business now has a world-wide reputation.

Heinz Dürr was one of the few smaller German businessmen to establish factories overseas. He followed the Volkswagen concern, one of his major customers, to Brazil and concluded cooperation agreements with East Bloc companies.

Today, the Dürr Group comprises 18 manufacturing plants in 12 countries with a world-wide payroll of 3,000: 1979 sales were DM365m — 486 times the figure at the time Dürr took over.

While many other businessmen sought the protection of powerful concerns, Dürr chose to remain his own boss, and in early 1977 he bought back from the French Saint Gobain concern its 35.4 per cent stake in his company.

What worried Dürr and made him decide to buy back the equity was the fear of nationalisation in France under pressure from the leftist parties, and Saint Gobain was a likely candidate.

Dürr has been known to the public at large since 1975 when the Metal Industry Federation of Baden-Württemberg appointed him its chairman — a job noone else wanted because of the toughness of collective bargaining in that branch of industry.

Dürr's dispute with union boss Franz Steinkühler has entered the annals of collective bargaining.

His experience in collective bargaining is bound to serve him well in his new post. There is a tough round coming up in the next few months when AEG will cut its present payroll of 125,000 by 13,000.

In order not to be left entirely without support from the staff, Dürr has made his acceptance of the AEG post contingent on approval by the majority of the works council, to whom he explained his policy: "I don't want to run this business from some lofty height; instead, I'll do what I've always done — I'll drive from plant to plant."

It was the works council that asked for this discussion. Its chairman, Hans Rubke, said: "Before we vote on you, we want to meet you."

Dürr and his wife Heide have known each other for 22 years, having first met on a tennis court.

Frau Dürr's attempt several years ago to run a boutique on the island of Sylt foundered after only a few months because of her husband's many commitments. He simply told her: "I need you — we have several dinner guests tonight."

Notwithstanding all selfconfidence, even Heinz Dürr was not sure whether he did not overestimate his ability to cope with the AEG job. It was his wife who encouraged and finally swayed him.

Heide Dürr said, when he told her that he would have to be away from home more often than not: "Throughout our marriage you've been away from home ... it started with your going to Brazil for three months."

Referring to the past few weeks, on the other hand, she said: "Our daughters were surprised to have had their father home so much between Christmas and New Year."

The Dürr's oldest daughter, Nicole, 21, is studying business administration in Hamburg and would be quite prepared to take over the family business eventually. She has welcomed her father's decision to accept the AEG post.



Heinz Dürr

(Photo: AEG-Telefunken)

The two younger daughters, Alexandra, 17, and Carolin, 15, were not so enthusiastic.

Dürr's eyes light up even time he speaks about the AEG job — as if he were planning a honeymoon instead of facing one of the toughest assignments of his career.

Dürr is convinced that there are no skeletons in any AEG cupboard that he cannot cope with. And so far he has always solved any problems facing him.

His approach at AEG will be the same as with his own company: He wants to cooperate with his colleagues.

The gap he will leave in the Dürr Group will be filled by Manfred Wahl, formerly a top IBM executive, who has for some time been on the board of the Dürr-Industriebeteiligungs GmbH (a holding company).

If Dürr were to fail, he would certainly not wind up a pauper, but psychologically he would be a has-been.

And he is clear about the situation: "Those who know me also know that, if this were to happen, I wouldn't take on the chief executive's job in my own company anymore."

Heide Neukirchen

(Welt am Sonntag, 20 January 1980)

The would-be teacher who made good in banking

Banker Walter Hesselbach has turned 65. Originally, he wanted to become a teacher, but political conditions after Hitler came to power prevented that.

Instead, he was apprenticed to the highly regarded Jewish Dreyfus Bank in Frankfurt where his father was a janitor.

This was a fortunate move, as the future was to show.

His big opportunity came in 1958 when Willi Richter, then chairman of the German Trade Unions Federation (DGB) asked him to help in the merger of the six regional trade union banks into the Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft as it now is.

He and his staff succeeded in developing this bank from relatively modest beginnings and against tough competition into a major institution held in high esteem world-wide.

He resigned as chairman in 1977 to devote himself entirely to his duties as the chief executive of the holding company Beteiligungsgesellschaft für Gemeinwirtschaft, an umbrella organisation for all DGB companies.



Walter Hesselbach

(Photo: Sven Simon)

After the war, Herr Hesselbach was one of the first to join the Bank Deutscher Länder, which was the forerunner of the Bundesbank.

He was a member of the board of the Hesse Central Bank from 1952 to 1958, and to this day he has a particular interest in central bank policies.

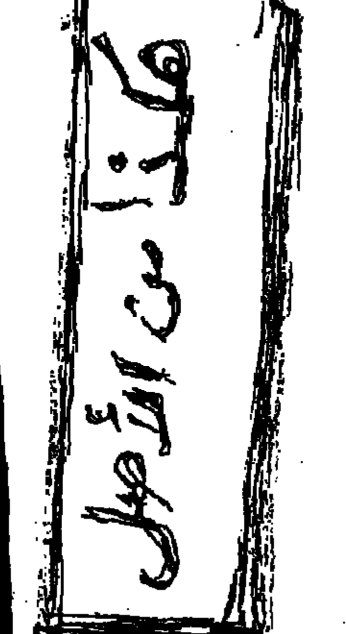
As a youth, he became politically involved, though he was never ideologically one-sided despite his close ties with the unions.

He has the reputation of an independent man who has always tried to reconcile conflicting interests. In his ideas he has always been guided by the feasible, and his advocacy of the cooperative concept has never made him oppose private enterprise.

In the post-war years he was instrumental in reviving relations with the Jewish people. He has also successfully tried to improve relations with the East Bloc countries.

In addition to all this, Walter Hesselbach has always done what he could to promote the cooperative movement on an international plane.

(Handelsblatt, 18 January 1980)



■ SHIPPING

'False alarm' over Soviet grain craft

Frantic activity in Hamburg's port last month involving Soviet ships loading grain caused some newspapers to refer to an "invasion" before the American embargo became effective.

But they were wrong. According to the port authority, the number of Soviet ships in port was not abnormal.

The fact is that Hamburg has been the main trans-shipment port for East-West trade, especially grain, since last October.

Soviet ships, small enough to negotiate inland waterways, sail to Hamburg from Russia via the North Sea-Baltic Canal and the Elbe river.

It is here that the huge bulk carriers with their grain cargos from the United States and Canada come for transshipment because of Hamburg's excellent facilities with 34 land-based and 11 floating grain lifters.

Within a matter of hours, they transfer the cargo from the bulk carriers to the East Bloc vessels.

So far, the Russians have trans-shipped 400,000 tons of grain in Hamburg.

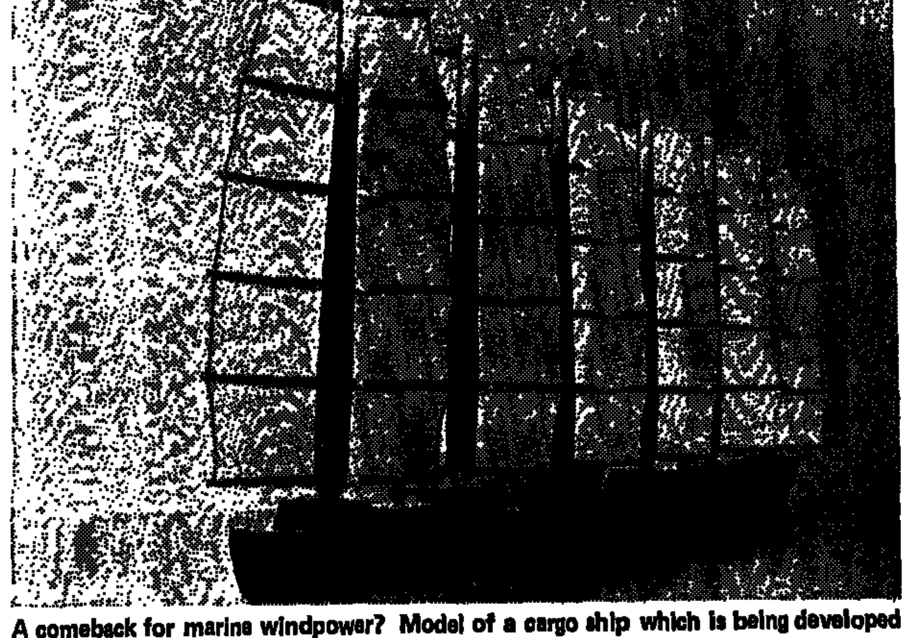
Such "invasions" have occurred because the bulk carriers cannot predict their exact time of arrival and when they get here they want to get rid of their cargo as quickly as possible.

Though business is as usual, there is nevertheless an air of nervousness in the port because no-one can predict how things will go on.

When the boss of the Transport Workers Union, Heinz Kluncker, announced that his union would not undermine the boycott of Soviet grain carriers by American longshoremen, a German tabloid jumped to the conclusion that Russian vessels would no longer be unloaded in German ports.

This led to an instant reaction by the works council of Transnautic (a 51 per

Continued on page 9



A comeback for marine windpower? Model of a cargo ship which is being developed in Hamburg. (Photo: Institut für Schiffbau, Universität Hamburg)

Engineers plan a return of the freighter under sail

The world's seafaring nations dream of a sail-powered cargo vessel that will make them independent of oil.

Is this just a dream? For thousands of years, the wind was the only propulsion for ships.

Man's most important discoveries were made under sail, new trading routes were opened up, wars waged and continents linked with each other.

It was not until the 19th century that shipping switched to more reliable energies: steam, oil and nuclear power.

Fossil fuel has become so expensive as to make an alternative source of energy vital.

How about an enormous hull with sails that can be trimmed automatically; with unstayed masts permitting free access to the cargo hatches?

And how about further enhancing this by a small crew that could handle such a ship by pushing assorted buttons? A mammoth windjammer that would ply the seven seas at zero energy costs?

This idea is now on the drawing board of the Hamburg marine engineer Wilhelm Prölss, whose "dynaship" has gained international recognition as a model.

But the dynaship does not solve all the problems. It, too, will depend on a conventional engine to carry out the orders transmitted by pushing a button on the bridge. It will need an engine to get through windless stretches and to manoeuvre in tight quarters.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 17 January 1980)

A change of colours

Last year the number of German-owned vessels sailing under German flag diminished in direct proportion to the increase in their number sailing under foreign flags (primarily Liberian and Panamanian).

At the beginning of this year, 211 German-owned vessels with a total of 2.693m tons were foreign registered — 37 more than a year earlier.

During the same period, the number of German registered ships decreased by 55 (643,000 tons) to 430 totalling 6.924m tons.

The figures do not include coasters.

The figure for foreign flags vessels includes 64 ships (805,000 tons) which, in accordance with registry regulations, have been under bareboat charter to foreign companies for a minimum period of one and a maximum period of two years.

Members of the German Shipowners Association now account for 936 vessels with a total of 9.8m tons.

These figures include, in addition to the merchant fleet, 295 tugs, supply vessels, research ships, etc. (many of which sail under foreign flags.

Members of the Association — account for 95.4 per cent of the merchant fleet under German flag.

A total of 58 new vessels (590,000 tons) were ordered by German owners in 1979: 50 of these ships (457,000 tons) were built by local yards — considerably more than a year earlier (40 ships with 320,000 tons).

German yards had orders from German companies for 44 vessels (480,000 tons) at the beginning of this year.

Another 25 (300,000 tons) have been ordered abroad. The share of German yards in the orders of the German shipping industry has thus risen from 50 per cent at the beginning of 1979 to 62.5 per cent at the beginning of this year.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 22 January 1980)

Hopes high that cargo rates will stay up despite embargo

The shipping outlook is uncertain admits the German Shipowners Association, in reaction to the American grain embargo.

But the association is not pessimistic.

It hopes that cargo rates will not deteriorate because increased sales to other countries will create a demand for cargo space.

Hans Böhme of the Kiel Institute for the World Economy: "After the long slump in the ocean freight markets that followed the 1973 boom, the position since 1978 has been marked by a clear increase in demand and rising freight rates."

But last year's development was not uniform. There was a boom for the smaller and medium sized tankers, while the situation for the mammoth tankers was unchanged. The market for solid cargo has improved everywhere.

The world merchant fleet was barely replenished in 1979. Tough fewer ships went to the wreckers' yard than in 1978, new construction was also less than in previous years.

The reduction in the number of mothballed vessels has led to an even greater fluctuation of demand for tanker space.

Herr Böhme expects freight rates for solid cargo to remain firm this year. Due to reduced growth rates in world trade, however, the demand is unlikely to increase at the present rate.

The demand for cargo space for ore is expected to fall. But this will be offset by coal.

Moreover, Herr Böhme expects grain shipments, which started increasing last autumn, to continue this trend and rise by 11 per cent to 180 million tons in 1980.

But this figure will probably have to be amended downward. On the other hand, the demand by the oil exporting countries is rising.

The tanker fleet is unlikely to see increased demand for cargo space this year.

The super tankers still have hidden reserves, partly due to their steaming at reduced speed.

Hans-J. Mahnke

(Die Welt, 15 January 1980)

Move towards flags of convenience

German shipping companies feeling the pinch of increasing costs. And many are looking to sailing under flags of convenience as a solution.

The latest wage increases by 4.5 per cent (with fringe benefits about 6 per cent) have revived the discussion on and transfers to other registries.

Especially in the tramp trade, shipowners are more and more thinking of switching to other flags because wages now amount for 60 per cent of operating costs and foreign crews are cheaper.

The shipowners' main bugbear is the Crew and Training Regulations (SBAD) and the Crew Guidelines of the German Shipping Law.

They prevent any leeway in filling shipboard posts. This applies in equal measure to the cook and the captain.

An 8,000 to 10,000 tons vessel with a crew of 22 may employ up to 14 foreigners. Such a mixed crew would cost the owner about DM1.16m a year as compared to DM1.8m for an all-German crew.

The savings are even greater when a ship transfers to foreign registry. The ship can be operated with an all-foreign crew costing about DM740,000.

This enormous difference in crew costs is reflected in the fact that vessels totalling 3.7m tons transferred to flags of convenience in 1979.

This is a thorn in the flesh of the trade unions who fear for German jobs.

They not only speak of "capitalist exploitation" and "slave trade". They argue that, notwithstanding DM... a year in subsidies for German shipowners, German jobs have not become more secure, let alone new ones been made available.

According to union statistics, some 3,000 German jobs were lost last year by transfers to flags of convenience.

The unions are now trying to put the brakes on this trend towards foreign crews (Filipinos, South Koreans, Maldivians and Indians) through strict application of German shipping laws.

As soon as a vessel enters a German port, inspectors of the Seamen's Association and the authorities check the tickets of the crew, the required minimum number of crew members and compliance with safety regulations. Ships which violate these provisions are arrested.

The London-based International Transport Workers Federation (an umbrella organisation with some 12 million members) has been trying for years to achieve this with different means.

It has been canvassing the crews of ships sailing under flags of convenience, trying to make them sign only standard contracts in an attempt to raise their pay to European levels.

Shipping lines refusing to comply face a strike, making it impossible for their ships to leave port.

In some instances, as with the Panamanian freighter "Zak", now in Hamburg, the ITF also demands back pay for the crew.

The union considers this legitimate and a contribution towards bridging the gap between high and low-wage countries.

The shipowners, on the other hand, fear that this will lead to even higher crew costs.

Ulrich Glootha...

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 21 January ...)

■ SPACE RESEARCH

Plans to probe secrets of a comet

The most famous of the comets, Halley's, makes its next appearance near the sun in 1986. It will be the last chance for scientists this century to examine closely a bright and active comet.

So a space probe is being prepared.

Various plans have been rejected for technical or financial reasons.

The current idea is to launch a large spacecraft which will travel about 57 kilometres a second about 100,000 kilometres from the comet.

Comets were once believed to be harbingers of disaster. Unlike most other phenomena in our planetary system, their appearance cannot be calculated exactly.

There are many reasons for scientific interest in comets. They are tiny heavenly bodies which scientists believe revolve slowly around the sun at the outer extreme of the solar system, almost as far away as the next fixed stars.

There are an 100 billion of them.

They give off no light, because the rays of the sun do not reach them. Since the beginning of our planetary system almost five billion years ago, their structure has literally frozen.

This means that more than any other celestial bodies comets can tell us about the origins of the solar system, including earth — if we can decipher their messages correctly.

Halley's comet in May 1910. (Photo: Horst Uwe Keller)

Only when distant comets are thrown out of their orbits by nearby stars do they become visible to us in the inner planetary system for a few months.

The warming rays of the sun give them life, transforming them from dead lumps of ice into brilliant celestial bodies.

Gases at the surface evaporate and, together with tiny dust particles, form the giant, shimmering cover which is often hundreds of thousands of times bigger than the comet itself.

Apart from this visible cover, the comet is surrounded by an invisible atmosphere of hydrogen atoms. Its diameter is over 10 million kilometres — far bigger than the sun. It radiates only in the ultra-violet sphere and was first observed from artificial satellites a few years ago.

The sun is also responsible for forming the comet's tail, which can be up to 100 million kilometres long; the sun's rays and a stream of charged hydrogen atoms, known as solar wind, drive the cometary gases and the dust particles ahead of them like the wind blows the smoke from a chimney.

What we see from the earth is not the tiny comet itself which is frequently less than 10 kilometres in diameter. It is the particles coming away from its surface and gathering in a luminous atmosphere.

These are not the same chemical substances of which the comet proper consists; the sun has not only ensured evaporation but started chemical processes leading to a breaking up of larger molecules.

Spectral analysis of these substances only allows us to speculate on the possible composition of the comet proper because there is a large number of possible processes.

According to this analysis, scientists believe the comet to be a large, rather porous, dirty kind of "snowball", a mixture of water ice and other substances such as dry ice and molecules consisting mainly of hydrogen, carbon, oxygen and nitrogen and also some heavy elements and particles of dust.

The validity of this theory can only be tested by a space probe sent up near the comet to take measurements.

Discussions about a comet mission of this kind have been going on for some time, both in the American space research organisation Nasa and the European Space Authority (Esa).

Unlike earlier missions to the moon or other planets, planning cannot always be done long term as up to 15 comets a year appear in the heavens.

Some of these, and unfortunately these are the most interesting scientifically, come near the sun only once and then disappear again.

The comet mission will therefore have to concentrate on comets which reappear at regular relatively short intervals in known orbits.

Halley's comet reappears at 76-year intervals. It will make its next appearance near the sun in 1986 be the last opportunity this century to visit a bright and active comet with a space probe. This is why scientist are concentrating their efforts on Halley's comet.

Fifteen days before the probe proper, a smaller probe will be launched towards the comet itself and during its four-hour flight will measure all the scientifically relevant facts about the comet: the chemical composition the gas cover, its density and temperature, the size and composition of the dust particles, the strength and direction of the magnetic field, etc.

The larger probe will continue its flight. It will be aiming to rendezvous with another comet (Tempel 2) which it will reach in 1988, about three years after flying past Halley and will observe this comet for about a year.

Tempel 2 returns every 5.3 years and is a typical short-period comet. It will be possible to make a detailed examination of the comet proper.

The combined mission is almost ideal in cepception, as the flight to Halley's comet will hardly require extra fuel. However, a start will have to be made by August 1985 at the latest.

Interest in this comet mission is so great in Europe that Esa decided to look into the possibilities of taking part.

The Europeans want to build the small probe which will investigate the centre of the comet first.

European and American scientists would have equal access to each probe.

This is an opportunity to take part at relatively low cost in a project which the Europeans at the moment have neither the money nor the technology to carry out alone.

For the rendezvous with the comet an ion engine is required. It uses the energy of the sun's rays and can thus accelerate the probe during the entire flight and make it manoeuvrable. Development work on this new kind of engine is not yet completed.

The success of this mission would immensely add to our knowledge of the nature of comets, their origin and thus the origin of the planetary system.

Up until now the American Congress has not approved expenditure on the ion engine which is listed in the 1981 budget.

Unless it changes its attitude, the concept will have to be changed and space scientists will have to devise a less ambitious project.

Details of experiments now being carried out — partly in international cooperation — and in which a number of German institutes are involved, are not yet available.

But it can already be said that the scientific value of the mission involving the examination of two very different kinds of comets will probably be comparable with those of the largest space missions to date.

The pictures beamed back will probably be more spectacular than those of the active volcanoes on Io, one of the moons of Jupiter.

Horst Uwe Keller/Rhea Lüst

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 January 1980)

Continued from page 8

cent Soviet-owned company that handles Russian vessels in Hamburg and Bremen) which feared that a boycott would endanger not only the 450 jobs at Transnautic but other harbour workers as well.

The Soviets, the works council feared, would transship their cargo in Rotterdam and Antwerp as they had done before. Generally, the works council rejected any trade boycott as a political instrument.

The Transport Workers Union has meanwhile stressed that it intends to take no unilateral action in German ports.

In any event, it said, a boycott would presuppose coordination with the International Transport Workers Federation in London, which has so far issued no instructions to that effect.

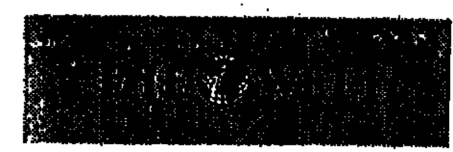
But should it give the green light, Rotterdam and Antwerp would also become unavailable to Soviet grain carriers.

Karsen Plog

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 January 1980)

THE ARTS

Theatre chief leaves with a rousing success



Boy Gobert is leaving his post as director of Hamburg's Thalia Theatre on the crest of a wave of success.

His plan to present, as a farewell, Goethe's *Faust* with the two parts on consecutive nights and play the part of Mephisto himself was a complete triumph.

The performance would answer several questions. There had been rumours for some weeks that this version of *Faust* would bring a breakthrough to a new simplicity, a concentration on the words and intentions of the playwright, and thus away from the dominant theatrical trend of recent years in which the inventions and innovations of directors are the main attraction.

Would Boy Gobert be able to play *Mephisto* as well as his great "shadow", Gustav Gründgens, who last played in *Faust* in Hamburg a quarter of a century ago, also in the part of Mephisto?

Expectations were great, among friends and enemies,

Klaus Schwarzkopf mimes a very excited theatre director. "Prologue in Heaven" leaves everything in suspense.

The curtain rises over a very bare stage set: director Hans Hollmann has had four tiled walls built one over the other. *The set remains the same throughout the performance. The actors enter through square holes in one or other of the walls.*

Perplexity soons sets in. Traugott Buhre, as Faust, is a fattish, badly dressed bourgeois of our days, with no trace of the demonic about him.

The clothes of the citizens on their Faster Walk are dusty and crumpled.

The Easter bells ring into this world as into a stuffy railway station urinal. What's the point of all this one is tempted to shout.

However one soon realises that language, and not directorial gags, dominates,

Faust speaks his *Vom Eise befreit sind Strom und Bäche* (river and streams are freed from ice) as a throwaway academic hotchpotch; smalltalk with his mediocre amanuensis Wagner — nonetheless the text blossoms as it has rarely done before and Goethe's poetic intentions come across completely.

The old verses and scenes are as glorious as when first seen and heard. The greatest poem in the German language rises up in all its moving splendour, in its bold sensuousness and inconceivable metaphysical magnificence.

We hardly notice that the actors are speaking one famous and familiar phrase after the next; every sentence sounds like a discovery.

This is without doubt the result of an unusual directorial achievement, with the emphasis on the words.

It is a pity that Hollmann's sense of history is not up to his sense of language. The Gretchen tragedy in his version thus comes at times dangerously close to unintended parody.

Faust is not really rejuvenated in the Witches' Kitchen,

He lacks all amorous drive. Instead of the great lover of the text, we have in Traugott Buhre only the caricature of a lover.

And Maria Hartmann as Gretchen is also far below the required level.

Of course it is very difficult to enact a tragic fate which in modern terms is not a tragic fate at all.

But in this version we do not even sense that Gretchen's fate could ever even have been tragic.

Mephisto and Frau Marthe completely upstage Faust and Gretchen. This was most unsatisfactory and many theatregoers must have been in two minds about whether to come back for the second part the following day.

Those who did not come back really missed something. *Faust I* in this production is just a tame prelude to *Faust II*. Suddenly everything is right. The stage set reveals hidden qualities, the tiles become transparent or open on to delightful prospects.

There is much to please the eye here, though language does not fade into the background. Kaiserpfalz, the classic Walpurgis Night, Faust's Castle, the General's Hill — all the famous scenes appear in powerful, vivid colours. Clever inventions and ideas abound but they are not an end in themselves — they only fulfil the logio of Goethe's terse stage directions.

Helena is played by Angelika Domröse from East Berlin. She is rather too dainty a little thing and, like Gretchen in *Faust* I, does not come up to the psychological level Goethe undoubtedly intended.

It would be unjust to mention other actors because the ensemble as a whole was magnificent.

Boy Gobert's interpretation of Mephisto must of course be compared in every detail with that of Gustav Gründgens.

Those who have seen the film version with Gründgens will recall a Mephisto who flung himself with great gusto into his task and obviously enjoyed carrying out Faust's wishes.

Gobert is far more composed, far more versed and blasé, an old hand at

Continued on page 11



Boy Gobert as Mephisto (Photo: Fritz Pe

Learning to shape history, not merely living it

Alexander Kluge's latest film, *Die Patriotin*, is a film about German history.

It consists of allusions and associations; quotations from old films, newsreels, books, contemporary and past events, slogans and dialogues.

In it, the heroine, Gabi Teichert, a history teacher in a town in Hesse, bravely tries to delve into German history.

We hear the voice of Kluge talking of his own experience of history.

He says, in the context of a reference to a soldier who died in Stalingrad: "It is a mistake to say that the dead are in any way dead."

This applies to history as Kluge sees it and would have us see it. Author and filmmaker Kluge believes that every person who has died the victim of our history should make us think and that this reflection should teach us not merely to live history passively but to take a part in shaping it.

Kluge does not say this in so many words. It is the lesson we have to draw from this compendium of information — as we listen to Gabi Teichert when, at an SPD congress she demands that she should be able to write history — meaning help to shape it.

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

And something must click when we hear the sentence: "The last chance to fight the misery of 1944 was in 1928."

The subtlety of Kluge's film is the way he presents his viewers and listeners with so many nuts which have to be cracked before we can understand what is happening.

This film — the book has already been published — is a collection of quotations from a second-hand shop.

Unlike Gabi Teichert, who delves into German history with a hammer, a saw and even a drill, Kluge puts history together like a puzzle — stories about stories.

There are wickedly humorous episodes such as that about the state protection official who is not fulfilled in his job and therefore continues to spy on people after work — spying mainly on women getting undressed and going to bed.

Kluge also quotes the words of a police officer after a scuffle in a Frankfurt department store: "The aim of the police action was the disturbance of the Christmas peace by the juveniles ..."

Kluge's films, and this one in particular, are commentaries on contemporary history, as the reconstruction of the department store scuffle shows.

He leaves us in no doubt that he regards history not as something past but as a continuing process still in flux.

It is a process which should not be left to the politicians at their party conferences and parliamentary meetings, to the spies in plain clothes, trigger-happy thugs in uniform, the state prosecutors with their mania for guiding every revolt and indignation "along ordered lines", or pragmatic headmasters who refer to decrees and therefore do not need to think for themselves.

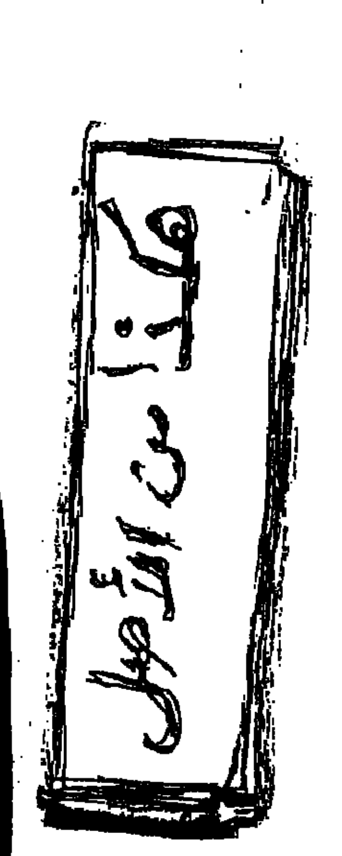
To understand Kluge's film properly one must also concede that Gabi Teichert's delvings and the cascades of words and images often cover up more than they reveal.

Otto Kuhn

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 19 January 1980)



Hannelore Hoger as Gabi Teichert in Kluge's film, *Die Patriotin*. (Photo: prokino)



LITERATURE

Return of a wandering Jewish writer

Edgar Hilsenrath was born into a Jewish family in Leipzig in 1925. Art the age of 13 he and his family had to flee from the Nazis. He landed in a Rumanian ghetto. When the Germans occupied Eastern Europe, he narrowly escaped execution. This experience is vividly described in his novel *Nacht* ("Night").

After the war Hilsenrath went to Israel, where he was one of the pioneers of the Negev desert. Later he lived in France and the USA, where his second novel *Der Nazi und der Friseur* ("The Nazi and the Barber") appeared.

***Der Nazi und der Friseur* was a great success when published in West Germany in 1977.**

Hilsenrath has now published his third novel, *Gib acht, Genosse Mandelbaum* ("Watch out, Comrade Mandelbaum").

When he came into the restaurant Edgar Hilsenrath was not smiling as he does in the publishers' photographs.

But I could still recognise him easily by his bushy moustache, his long, thick hair, his jeans suit and the inevitable cigarette he lit as soon as he sat down.

Edgar Hilsenrath, who as a 50 year old returned to the country of his birth, after years of running, of looking for a home in the new state of Israel, of emigration, of a journey around the world which he compares with that of Ahasverus, the wandering Jew.

"I started writing at school, really," he says. His hand moved nervously over his beret, which remained on throughout.

His movements are awkward, abrupt. He glances around uncertainly, as if he is unsure.

"When I was 12 I wrote essays that the teachers tore apart because I never stuck to the subject, always wandered off at a tangent. I got bad marks because I didn't do what the others did. But it was great fun. And at the age of 14 I wrote my first novel ..."

I asked: Did you know at the time that this was more than a pubertal act of liberation?

"Yes, I knew that very early. It was a novel about a white negro and had something to do with the Jewish problem. I also wanted to be the first 14-year-old writer with a published novel. I had almost finished it, and then we were deported ..."

The sentence hangs in the air for a moment, then after a short pause Hilsenrath says that he rescued his manuscript despite the ghetto and concentration camp and gave it to his mother, who wanted to go to the west after they had been liberated by the Russians.

He went to Israel, but his mother was robbed on the border between Austria and Hungary. "So my manuscript was lost and I haven't seen it since."

When the waiter arrives, Hilsenrath orders white wine. "Very dry, please."

"Let us go back to your school days," I said. "Your essays weren't the only thing that made you different from the others. You were also the only Jewish child in the class. What did that mean?"

"For me school was a nightmare, a prison. At first all the boys were beaten, except me ..."

"Was that still common then?"

"Yes, with the cane, for the least little thing. We were all just as badly off. Besides, I didn't look Jewish, I had blue eyes and dark blonde hair. They didn't know I was Jewish. When the word got out, they were all against me."

"Didn't you have any friends?"

"At first I didn't. Later I had two or three who weren't so bothered that I was a Jew. Anyway, we used to fight a lot because of this,

"I always used to hit back hard and I was never really beaten in my life, I mean by fellow pupils, But the nightmare was having to fight every day, having to go to school with a knuckleduster. I wasn't going to school at all, I was going into the ring."

"And the teachers?"

"A few were very nice; a few were real Nazis. One was a party member and drew pigs' tails on the walls and then teased me and asked: 'Do you know what that is?' My father was an officer in the first world war, in the Austrian army. He won all kinds of military honours.

"One day he put them on and came to the school and asked the teacher why he kept picking on me. He said he had, after all, fought for Germany. But it didn't do any good and I was glad when we emigrated ..."

In Rumania he did not go to school. He did not know the language, and he had a private teacher.

Then came the war and the deportations. At first the Jews were herded together into ghettos in Rumania when the war broke out.

When Hitler invaded the Soviet Union, the Jews were evacuated to nearer the Soviet border.

Hilsenrath's years in the ghetto provide the material for his first novel, *Nacht* ("Night"). The fate of this novel is not without its German aspects.

Hilsenrath today: "The book was written in the fifties. It is realistic, but there is lot of black humour in it. At first in 1964 it was a flop.

"Kindler published it, but they were afraid it might be misunderstood as anti-semitic. At that time, Jews had to be portrayed as ideal types who shared their last crumb of bread with their fellow sufferers.

"There were a few heroes, but most just wanted to save their own skins and stole bread from their fellow sufferers.

"The publishers said that they could not publish anything like my book in Germany. I said I wanted my book back and they said that wasn't possible, it had already been printed.

"Kindler just spirited the copies away. Allegedly there were 1.000 copies, but the Verlag wrote that there were only 700. I bought half and the rest came on to the market and then they disappeared. After that I did not want to publish anything in Germany any more."

Hilsenrath says he went back to the USA in 1965. His second book, *Der Nazi und der Friseur*, written during his second stay in Germany, in Munich, was published in English.

It was successful in the USA but this did not give Hilsenrath any illusions.

"I got a worm's eye view of America. The only thing that counts there is money. I arrived without a cent and lived there like most immigrants, completely isolated, like the Turks here ten years ago.

"We sat around in immigrants' cafés, had no women, any job going. I did all kinds of jobs. I even worked as a waiter. I describe this in my new book that's being published this year. It's an anti-AMerican book."

Hilsenrath's personal history dogs him. The memories are too powerful, the period of comparative peace has been to short.

He now talks more quietly, dropping his initial reserve. His gestures are livelier, now and then there is a trace of a smile.

"Four years ago I decided to come back for good and, as I'm always afraid of changing my mind, I did everything very quickly.

"Within 24 hours I left my flat, stored my things at a cousin's place, put what I really needed into parcels and sent them poste restante to Munich.

"Then a BBC reporter who had interviewed me about *Der Nazi und der Friseur* heard about my plans and said: 'Go to Berlin, not to a chic, trendy town like Munich.' And so I had all my parcels redirected from Munich to Berlin."

There Hilsenrath's literary career in Germany began. He met a reporter with SFB (Free Berlin Radio). She became his girlfriend, found him a publisher for *Der Nazi und der Friseur*, and found reviewers. Suddenly, Edgar Hilsenrath was somebody.

"Do you take yourself more seriously now that you are successful?" I asked.

The little smile disappears and a frown appears. "I've always believed in my books, even when I thought I wouldn't be able to find a publisher for *Nacht*.

"I have never had any doubts about my art. I have lots of doubts about myself. I've got weaknesses like everybody else. But nothing much has changed in my life."

We talked about Israel and its relations with the Arab states. When I ask Hilsenrath what German policy in this conflict should be, there is no longer any talk of falsely understood philosemitism.

"The Germans have a moral obligation to the Jewish people. They must oppose any attempts to threaten the existence of the Jewish state. On the other hand we have the Arab refugee problem. This can only be solved by a compromise.

"I think all the states in the area should form an economic federation in which Jews and Palestinians would be fully integrated."

"Easily said, but very difficult indeed to do," I say. Hilsenrath takes a tiny sip of wine and raises his finger as if he wants to say something, but then leaves it at that.

He is obviously deeply concerned about Israel. I ask him about his home country, ask him if this idea can mean anything to him after his experiences.

"Home for me is the country I spent the decisive years of my life in and that I feel attached to. For me this was Bukovina after the nightmare of Hitler Germany.

"But that is gone now of course. Today I just live somewhere. I don't want to live where I feel bad, where things go badly for me, as in America.

"I can't live in Israel, because of the language.

"I don't want to adapt again. And so Germany is at least my home from the language point of view."

I ask: "What part did your family play in your life?"

"On the one hand, Jews have a very strong sense of family. We stuck together during the deportation especially.

"On the other hand, I had to fight against my family for my job. My father wanted me to do something respectable and to do my writing just as a sideline. I didn't want to. Despite the pressure, I was strong enough to break away from my family. I have always done what I wanted."

He says this simply and matter-of-factly. He takes another sip of wine and goes on to the next subject: friendships.

"Friendships between men risk becoming homosexual. I have never had a friendship of this kind. My deep friendships have all been with women."

"In your most recent novel, *Gib acht, Genosse Mandelbaum*, you ridicule communism and capitalism equally, in slapstick style."

"Yes, because I would not like to live in a capitalistic or in a communist state. I prefer to live in a chaotic society.

"Strictly speaking, I'm not against capitalism. Only against state capitalism. I don't want to live in a feudal state. I'd rather live in a social democratic state that could be improved ..."

"And beyond this life?"

"I'm not a believer, I'm nothing at all. I only believe in what I have experienced."

"Your publisher's photographs show you smiling happily. Does smiling or even laughter play an important part in your life?"

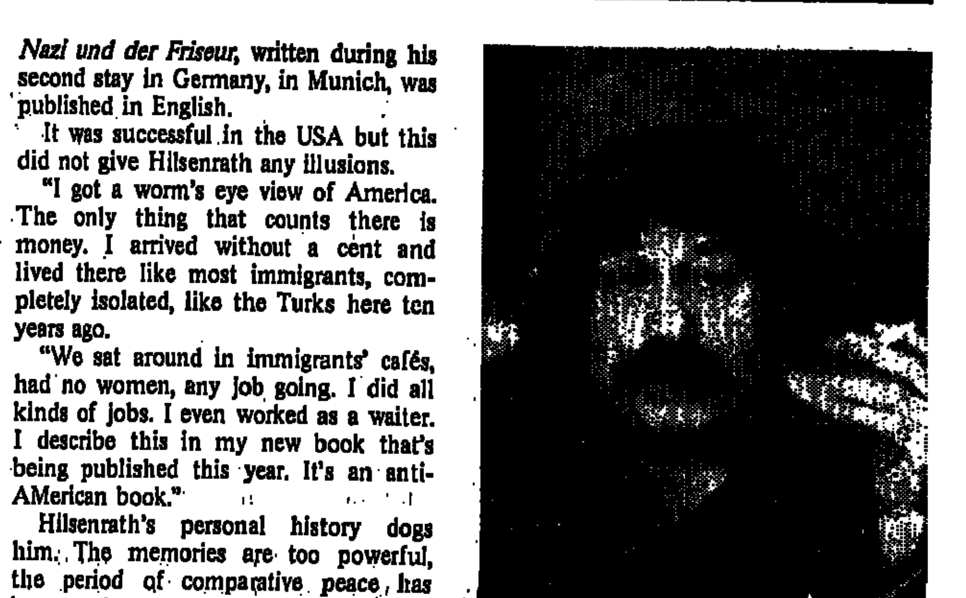
"Not laughter, I often grin. I used to be very serious. Now I take a more humorous view of things."

"By things do you mean life?"

"Yes, and myself. I don't take myself so seriously any more."

Gerd Courts

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 19 January 1980)



Edgar Hilsenrath

(Photo: Alfred Koch)

Continued from page 10

stealing souls. His inner distance to his task is expressed even in linguistic nuances, such as when he scornfully hisses diphthongs.

This is excellent in its way and becomes even more so in the second part where he expresses the perplexity of a Nordic devil at the insouciance of the witches and at the end where he shows that Faust and he have long since become friends, two parts of one and the same soul. These were two great evenings for Gobert as an actor.

Whether Hollmann's version of *Faust* will make theatre history remains to be seen. It is already clear that it marks a turning point in the contemporary theatre, from which things can start looking up again!

The applause at the end was vociferous!

Günter Zehm

(Die Welt, 21 January 1980)

■ MEDICINE

Scientists claim breakthrough on body's immunising mechanism

German scientists say they have been able to put an end to an argument over the body's immunising mechanism that has lasted since the turn of the century.

The dispute was whether the blueprint for about a million different antibodies was part of the genetic system or whether that resistance was "learnt" from exposure to foreign bodies.

According to scientists at the Max Planck Institute for Experimental Medicine in Göttingen, the genetic theory has been confirmed.

Professor Norbert Hilschmann, head of the Institute's Immunological Chemistry Department, said the conclusion was based on several experiments: one involved injecting mice raised in totally antiseptic surroundings with coli bacteria.

Antibodies developed against not only the bacteria but also against tissue from other animals such as chimpanzees.

At first it seemed inexplicable that an organism should be able to develop immunity not only against the bacteria and viruses causing common diseases but also against new and unfamiliar bacteria and indeed against substances artificially produced by chemists, said Professor Hilschmann.

The human body has three lines of defence against alien substances. The outer one is the skin. When this has been penetrated — as in the case of injury — the invader that has managed to get into the blood is initially combated through white blood corpuscles, leucocytes and macrophagocytes, huge cells that attempt to devour the invader.

The third line of defence begins its action when there are too many invaders for the combined force of the leucocytes and macro-phagocytes.

There, certain white blood corpuscles, lymphocytes, make use of their ability to develop specific antibodies and deploy them against the intruders.

Carried by the blood, the lymphocytes permeate the entire organism, asking the macro-phagocytes whether the invader has managed to pass the line of defence and whether they should intervene.

If the macro-phagocytes have actually devoured some intruders, such as viruses or bacteria, and if, in doing so, they have acquired the characteristic traits (antigenes) of the alien substance, the lymphocytes are stimulated to multiply.

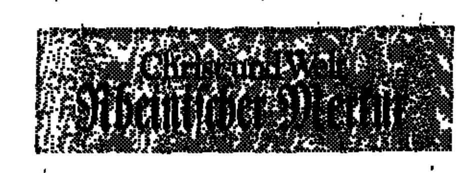
Depending on their origin from the bone marrow (B lymphocytes) or from the thymus gland (T lymphocytes), this leads to the production of plasma cells.

These, in turn, produce huge quantities of antibodies — up to 2,000 per second — or so-called immunity cells with antibody-like structures on the surface.

The immunity cells (also known as killer cells) attack skin grafts and organ transplants from foreign donors as well as degenerate cancer cells.

Mobile antibodies produced by the plasma cells, on the other hand, destroy those of the antigenes that have penetrated. They fit like a key in a lock.

The question, Professor Hilschmann said, was whether the immunological system resembled an inherited key-ring with one million keys of which the right one must be selected and multiplied; or whether the lock (in this case



the antigenes) must first be examined so that the appropriate key can then be made?

For a long time it seemed that the second was true, because the immunological system is capable of learning.

Having once had to deal with a specific antigene (for instance, measles bacteria), it remembers that it has once produced antibodies against this particular invader.

It can therefore react quickly and efficiently in case of the same invader, preventing a repeat infection.

Researchers have also found that all antibodies are similarly structured. All resemble a symmetrical Y.

The shaft of the Y consists of two heavy protein molecule chains (H chains) extending into the two arms. The remainder of the arms is formed by a light protein chain (L chain).

Research has now also shed light on the question where the bit of the key that fits the corresponding antigene lock is located.

When scientists examined the series of amino acids (protein molecules in the H and L chains) they discovered two areas in both of the chains: a constant part containing an unvarying chain of amino acids and a variable part with a structure that differs from antibody to antibody.

It is this variable part that makes the antibodies capable of attacking specific invaders. The constant part of an H or L chain is always combined with some 1,000 different variable parts, making for 1,000 different H and L chains.

The possible combinations are 1,000 times 1,000, hence one million differently shaped key bits.

The question that still remains open was whether the information for the variable chain is fixed in the genetic material or not.

The Göttingen researchers found the answer when they found the genetic structures of the antibody producing cells from the amino acid series.

They discovered that 1,000 various genes were responsible for the 1,000 variations of the H and L chains, while the constant sector is always structured according to the blueprint of the same gene.

The genes responsible for the variables are contained in the genetic material at birth. They have developed through evolution by the doubling of genes from a single original gene.

Traces of this development are still in evidence. In fact, the Göttingen researchers were able to deduce from the structure of certain amino acids in the variable part of the protein chains how the evolution of antibodies has developed in the past five hundred million years since the advent of vertebrates.

In the original cells of the immune system (bone marrow and thymus gland) the variable and the constant genes are still separated, each containing a set of 1,000 variable genes and a gene for the constant sectors of the H and L chains.

In the process of differentiation and development into effective immune cells, one of the variable genes is fused at random with a constant gene. The end product is a cell equipped to combat a specific antigene.

Man is thus born with an arsenal of one million specialised cells.

But each of them exists in relatively small quantities. Only when stimulated by the invasion of an alien substance do the cells multiply and produce antibodies.

This means that, in the course of evolution, the body does not develop antibodies against all existing and future alien substances but only against antigene groups.

As a result, there are antibodies for the most unlikely antigenes.

This also explains why mice injected with coli bacteria not only produce antibodies against them but also stimulate the production of immunity cells to combat grafted chimpanzee skin.

Michael Globig

(Rheinischer Merkur / Christ und Welt, 18 January 1980)

Why work can become a narcotic

That our society is one addicted to liquor, narcotics, pills, nicotine and food is well-enough known. Not so well known is another addiction — to work.

In workaholics, such highly valued qualities as industriousness, determination, success and ambition become an end in themselves, and can lead to behavioural disorders.

The causes and the treatment of workaholism have now been thoroughly analysed by Gerhard Menzel, psychoanalyst and medical director of a psychotherapy clinic, in *Zeitschrift für psychosomatische Medizin and Psychoanalyse* (25/79).

In his clinic, Herr Menzel met many patients who showed behavioural patterns resembling those of workaholics.

So he took a questionnaire used for alcoholics and adapted it by replacing the word "alcohol" with "work".

The questions were designed to show degrees of addiction.

Herr Menzel was thus able to show the three characteristic stages of addiction: the preliminary stage of abuse followed by a critical stage between abuse and addiction and, finally, pronounced chronic addiction.

In the beginning, the symptoms are exactly the same as with other addicts. Like many other people, the patient is ambitious, with one startling difference: he tries to camouflage his work.

Work-related reading matter, for instance, is passed off as reading for entertainment; files are hidden in the holiday luggage; and any reference to excessive work is evaded.The workaholic thinks only of his work, so he neglects his family and other interests.

This leads to feelings of guilt which he refuses to admit to himself.

He plays down the physical and psychological symptoms of exhaustion that occur.

The critical stage is marked by loss of control. There is an irresistable urge to go on working and to ensure that there is at all times an ample stockpile of work.

A workaholic tries to achieve this by shouldering every new task, be it at his place of work or in a club or similar organisation.

He tries to combat the threatening loss of control by attempts at self-treatment.

He tries to work only periodically or to adhere to a rigid work system. But in the long run none of it succeeds. Instead he just gets worse.

Self-pity and a feeling of being powerless ("I seem to be possessed by things over which I have no control") become the order of the day. But still he does not realise that he is ill.

At this stage, psychological and physical complaints become more pronounced — perhaps because the patient had originally played them down and tried to combat them with the alternate use of sleeping and pep pills.

Growing exhaustion, depression, heart and circulation trouble and stomach aches finally make the workaholic agree to treatment — mostly under pressure from his wife.

He says to himself: "I'll just recharge my batteries to be able to work properly again."

The collapse frequently comes when the workaholic is so overtaxed that his performance diminishes or when psychosomatic ailments such as heart attacks or duodenal ulcers incapacitate him and enforce idleness.

Cure is only possible if the doctor understands their connection with work and treats them accordingly.

This calls for a careful examination of the psychology of the case.

Case studies provide some information, though this must not be generalised.

Herr Menzel has found that at the root of many cases there is an excessive identification with a particularly successful father.

The desire to be recognised by the father leads to a marked drive for recognition in general, frequently unfulfilled.

Pathological symptoms occur when there is a wide gap between the need for recognition and its fulfilment especially in mid-life.

Treatment presupposes the right diagnosis, and this is frequently very difficult since the symptoms given by the patient are usually designed to cover up rather than reveal his condition.

Casual questions by the doctor combined with the questionnaire provide more accurate information.

Success or failure of any therapy depends on whether the patient, with the help of his doctor, can find new aims in life.

Aegidius Schneider

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 16 January 1980)

An organisation to help highly intelligent children has been founded in West Germany.

It is aimed at children who are academically intelligent rather than those gifted in the arts, for example.

Professor Wilhelm Wieczerkowski, of Hamburg University, who is the organisation's founder, says artistically talented children have few problems.

A young musician soon gets recognised and is given every encouragement.

But a child who is too bright for his or her class can have problems.

Parents and teachers often cannot cope, and the pupil often finds less productive fields to fill in the time.

Professor Wieczerkowski quoted the case of an American parent who sued the education authorities for a million dollars because they had not recognised his son's talents.

"We don't want to go that far," said Professor Wieczerkowski. "We just want to point out the problems and needs of these children and try to help them."

A mother from Hamburg says: "Our daughter is very difficult, according to her teacher. She is constantly making trouble in classes.

"School is a great disappointment to her because she expected the teachers to answer all her questions. When she found out that she knew and could do more than was required in the lessons, she wanted to stop going to school altogether."

Another pupil had similar problems when he started school. He had already taught himself to read and write, so school had nothing more to offer him.

He got into all kinds of trouble. In his case and that of similar children, the problem is the discrepancy between their development and what is generally termed social school maturity.

■ EDUCATION

The rare problems of being highly gifted

Professor Wieczerkowski says: "In practically every country in the world measures have been taken to give these children special help. But not in the Federal Republic of Germany."

To draw attention to this problem — which he compares with the problems of the handicapped — Professor Wieczerkowski has founded in Hamburg the Society for the Advancement of Highly Gifted Children.

Its members are parents, teachers, doctors and psychologists.

"But we would like far more members, regardless of whether they have children in this category," he says.

The first priority is to combat prejudices. Professor Wieczerkowski is not happy about the words "highly gifted", because it invites prejudices.

"People think that if someone is highly gifted he wants to be different, better. We just want to point out that he is different."

The Society also wants to make clear that the common view that highly gifted children can make their own way in life without any help is false.

"These children often have great contact problems. They have no friends on their wavelength to play with. Because they think differently, they are rejected. And often they become withdrawn."

Parents often do not know how to treat their highly gifted children. Often the rest of the family has normal intelligence. The intelligent child then feels unhappy and isolated. No one understands it.

Parents often tend not to recognise their child's exceptional abilities. This can mean that their abilities languish, unused. The child is forced into opposition and runs the risk of becoming a failure."

"These children fail because society does not understand them," according to the society's magazine.

Professor Wieczerkowski said other countries have long since recognised the problem and have started special schools or classes.

This applies particularly to the East Bloc, Great Britain, the US and France.

Highly gifted children are in all sections of the population. Only 27 per cent come from graduates' families and other privileged families.

Yet children from the working class especially need help, because their talent is not recognised or repressed because they do not conform to their parents' image of them.

How does one recognise a highly gifted child? "We don't want tests," says Professor Wieczerkowski. As it is important to find out if a child is highly gifted as soon as possible, a number of signs have been listed to help parents.

The society's checklist asks: "Is the baby very lively, does it need less sleep than the average child, can it concentrate on a certain activity at an early stage, does it learn to walk early or begin to talk very early — or sometimes very late?"

Highly gifted children do not normally develop the same way as ordinary children. They only show their abilities when they are sure they will not fail.

They are very eager to learn, become angry if the answers are unsatisfactory, can think amazingly logically, remember things their parents have long since forgotten, learn to read without help and model themselves on older children.

This list cannot of course be complete and even if all these signs are there it still does not necessarily mean the child *is highly gifted.*

Professor Wieczerkowski points out that the children should, above all, remain children. "We must help them to develop and be happier."

This means parents must show understanding when their children want to make things and experiment or when they are mathematically gifted and concentrate on figures, neglecting other things.

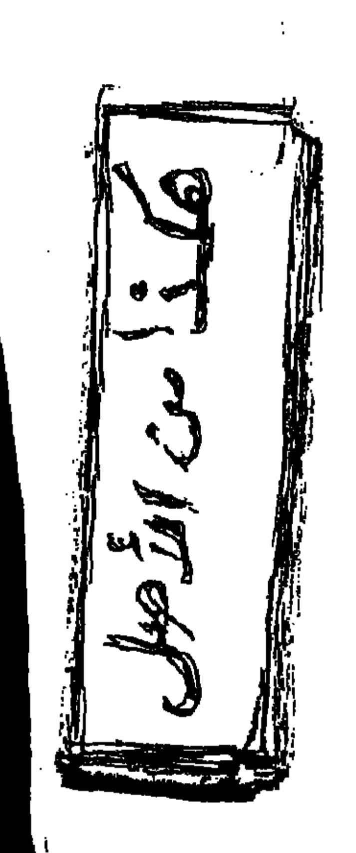
One mother says: "When the society started its work, it was difficult at first for the parents to find a common denominator.

"The problem was that parents expected the society to find all the answers. This is not so. It is up to parents to make their contribution."

Professor Wieczerkowski concedes that the society could make ambitious parents put their children under pressure to join the exclusive club of the highly gifted.

"But we will accept all children, even

Continued on page 15



■ SOCIETY

Moslems in Germany: coping with a new environment

Friday at noon at the Islamic Community Centre in Munich: through the public address system wired to all rooms the muezzin calls the faithful to prayer, and some 75 Moslems gather in the hall.

Sitting at the mullah's feet, their faces turned to Mecca, they listen to the sermon delivered in Arabic, Turkish and German.

The service, attended by only one woman modestly sitting on a separate raised platform reserved for her sex, ends with the Moslem creed: "Allah is the only God and Mohammed is His Prophet."

The faithful — Turks, Yugoslavs, Iranians, Arabs, Africans, Pakistanis and one German — bow towards Mecca.

But united though they are at prayer, their community in Germany is fragmented, according to Mohammed S. Abdullah in a study on "Islam in the Federal Republic of Germany."

It is this disunity that has frustrated the efforts of Moslem communites in this country to achieve a status similar to that of the major Christian churches.

An application was filed by the Islamic Cultural Centre in Cologne, sponsored by the largest Islamic group, the Turkish Süleymancilar Movement.

The organisation has 133 communities with 160 mosques. According to its spokesman, it accounts for 60 per cent of Germany's Islamic community and has 1.1 million members (mostly Turks).

It is thus by far the largest Islamic group in Germany, which has 1.4 million Moslems.

The application failed primarily on objections by the Trade Unions Federation and many politicians.

They are worried by right-wing-extremist elements and religious fanaticism.

The Munich mosque caters primarily for Moslems from the Arab countries: 30,000 in Munich and 70,000 in Bavaria as a whole, according to one estimate.

The community centre was financed (after a many difficulties and delays) by Libya's head of state Ghaddafi, a supporter of Islamic revival.

Mohammed Abdullah: "The re-Islamisation process is simply the attempt to achieve conformism with God's teachings in the Koran so that his kingdom may come once the people are prepared to change."

This also means a rejection of secular Western civilisation. As a result, Moslems living in a non-Islamic environment *must find for themselves a new* way of life and this creates problems — especially because of the fact that they have no church along Christian lines and no hierarchic order that would support such a development.

Jasin Abdelghani, 38, from Jordan, has been trying to live as a good Moslem in Germany since 1960 when he came to Munich.

But at the very beginning his only aim was to make money, as he himself puts it.

He got a job with BMW, where he now works as a spray painter.

Thirteen years ago, he went to Amman to marry 18-year-old Suheila, whom he has known since his childhood.

"German girls are no good for me," says Jasin in almost fluent German.

Today, Jasin and Suheila have six children. They have a small apartment in Neufahrn, an industrial town north of Munich.

The parents have their own bedroom while the children share a room furnished with double-decker beds and a convertible couch.

Jasin, quoting the Prophet Mohammed, says: "Modesty and faith are akin; when one is abolished the other also disappears."

The Abdelghani's modest home is indeed their castle — a castle in which their Moslem world remains intact.

The living room, which also serves as a prayer room, may only be entered — like a mosque — with bare feet.

A picture of the Great Mosque in Mecca is on one of the walls. The transistor radio is tuned in to the Voice of Kuwait and Arab music.

And all doors — as if to make it impossible for anybody to forget — bear the Islamic creed "Allah is the only God and Mohammed is His Prophet."

As prescribed in the Koran, Suheila Abdelghani prays five times a day. In her laboured German she tries to explain why she virtually never leaves the house, not even to go shopping.

She respects her husband as the absolute ruler over the family and she explains that, in keeping with the Koran, *the children revere and obey their father.*

Jasin Abdelghani has arranged his life in a non-Moslem environment by abid-



ing by the "five pillars" of Islam (faith, prayer, alms, fasting and pilgrimage to Mecca).

Like the Ten Commandments for Christians, the "five pillars" regulate the lives of devout Moslems.

Jasin has no problems with his five daily prayers at work because he gets a ten-minute break every hour and because BMW has a prayer room for its Moslem workers.

But mostly he prays several times in the evening after work. This is permitted by the Koran while abroad.

But of course, he can only pray at the mosque during his time off work.

He drinks no alcohol and eats no pork. During Ramadan he fasts "because it is good for your health and for self-discipline and because one must think of the poor."

For the same reason he gives 2.5 per cent of his sivings every year to a poor widow he has known for some time.

Like in previous years, Abdelghani will again have a sheep slaughtered for him for the Islamic sacrificial feast.

He has managed to find a Turkish butcher who will do it for him in accordance with ritual.

He wants nothing to do with his Turkish fellow workers — not because he considers them religious fanatics but simply because, as he puts it: "We don't get along. They once occupied our country and we chased them away."

Moreover, he says, Turkish children beat up his own kids regularly because they say that Arabs are the same as negros. His sympathies are with Ayatollah Khomeini. His oldest daughter, Milada, 12, carries the Ayatollah's portrait in her schoolbag — and gets beaten up for it by her classmates.

The community centre serves Jasin as a meeting place with his Islamic brothers. Once in a while on weekends he goes to the Koran School where the imam lectures on morals and manners and such topics as "Are Islam and politics separable?"



This turquoise-tiled mosque in Hamburg is one of the three main mosques in the Federal Republic of Germany. The others are in Aachen and Munich. (Photo: Hamburg Information)

He can also discuss problems with other Moslems.

Every other weekend the Islamic community in southern Germany has a major get-together which Abdelghani attends with his whole family. Then they spend the night at the centre.

The evening consists of common prayer, discussion and eating.

Among the discussion topics are the position of the 1,200 German Moslems; or members of the Iranian Consulate lecture on "the spy centre in Teheran", saying that they are not satisfied with the Germans because they rank second only to the Americans as liars and oppressors.

He is told that the victory of Islam is in the offing and that Germany is about to "fall apart because there is no feeling of unity, because the man no longer knows what his wife is doing and because children leave their parents and no longer obey them as ordained in the Koran."

This particular weekend, Suheila Abdelghani is the only woman attending the lectures. Her husband says: "The Koran gives women the same right to learn as it gives men. Before Allah she is an equal because she is as responsible for her deeds as any man. But her foremost function is to look after her family."

Jasin Abdelghani is no religious zealot but he wants to make sure that his family lives strictly by the Koran.

So his children attend the Koran School every Saturday, to receive religious instruction and learn Arabic.

Some of these Koran schools have recently come under severe criticism as breeding grounds for ideologies.

Turkish teachers associations complain that inadequately trained mullahs teach the Koran with the help of the rod, which they use on the children liberally, and that they instil fanaticism and enmity towards everything alien.

This not only overtaxes the children but also leads to poor performance.

The North Rhine-Westphalian government has countered this criticism by saying that Koran schools are private institutions and therefore hard to control. The language barrier is one of the major difficulties.

In any event, Abdelghani's six children enjoy going to their Koran school "because we have many friends there and are permitted to play."

Their particular Koran school has pictures of Ayatollah Khomeini and Sultan Saladin (who beat the crusaders and liberated Jerusalem) on the walls.

Teacher Fatima Heeren, a German woman who converted to Islam, sees the problem with the eyes of a Moslem, saying: "The children get no instruction in the Islamic religion at German schools, and many parents — especially Turkish — are in no position to educate their children in the Islamic faith because they barely understand Arabic, the language of the Koran."

Those responsible have meanwhile realised that there is a great danger that the children might lose their identity which, more than in any other culture, is rooted in religion.

But there is disagreement as to the solution.

One official of the Islamic community in southern Germany says: "By returning to Islam we can regain our self-esteem, and selfconfidence also helps to conquer hatred."

A Protestant clergyman from Frankfurt, on the other hand, speaks of "a justified fear that Islam in the Federal Republic of Germany will develop into a reactionary and nationalistic movement and create a ghetto."

His Munich counterpart of the We... Group for Alien Affairs fears that the "conflict will become more acute."

Jasin Abdelghani tries to solve the conflict by sealing off his family as far as he can.

But his children are confronted daily with the conflict between the home and the alien environment at school and kindergarten.

Milada's head scarf, which she wears as any Islamic girl should, has made her the butt of ridicule at school, and she has little choice but to take it off and carry it in her schoolbag.

At home, her father practice Arabic with all his children "so that they won't feel like strangers when we return to Jordan."

By the same token, at school Milada is in trouble due to her poor German

Continued on page 15

■SPORT

Competitive champion with not-so-competitive ideas

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Cornelia Hanisch, world fencing champion and three times German titleholder, wanted to study history and foreign languages.

But instead she is a trainee teacher specialising in sport and history at a secondary modern school.

Hanisch opted for the teaching because, when she began studying in 1974, she was advised that sports teachers were always needed and that she would have no difficulty getting a job.

Now teaching sport is no longer the passport to security that it was.

Cornelia, now aged 27, did not enter full time competitive sport until the comparatively late age of 20.

With her ideas, Cornelia Hanisch would be the ideal sports teacher.

Though she is a highly successful athlete, her views of the function of sport teaching are not what one might expect: she emphasises sport as fun.

In the Adolf Reichwein school in the small Hessian town of Heusenstamm, one would look in vain for such a fencing coach.

And this despite the fact that fencing is by no means and unusual subject in schools.

In Frankfurt, for example, there are eight schools offering fencing. And what does the world fencing champion do in her sports lessons?

She ignores her own discipline and works on principles which one might even describe as hostile to top-class sporting performance.

She aims to help her pupils enjoy sport, have fun and a feeling of success and achievement so that they will go on playing sport for the rest of their lives.

Hanisch says: "The fear children have of heavy gymnastics ought to make us think. So why should teachers insist on traditional compulsory exercises on the apparatus and put children off gymnastics for life?"

So leisure time sports play a major part in her teaching concept.

She completely disregards the fact that as a top-class sportswoman she is model to the pupils, preferring to teach them Indiaca, a game similar to badminton which can be played by the whole family.

Hanisch also believes that as a sports teacher she should concentrate most of her attention on the weaker, less gifted pupils.

Good pupils ought, she believes, to join sports clubs. She does not think school is the right place for developing their talents. "Here sport for all comes foremost."



Sport can be fun: that is the philosophy of champion fencer Cornelia Hanisch, now teaching at this school in Hesse. (Photo: Werek)

It is logical, then, that Cornelia does not believe in marks in sport. She says they should be abolished.

In the meantime she has worked out her own marking system, in which sporting achievement and social behaviour are equally weighted.

Cornelia trains two to three hours a day before major tournaments and believes that two hours sport a week at school is not enough.

She would like to see three hours of sport on the school timetable. She complains that sports lessons are frequently cancelled for one reason or another and insists that these three hours would have to be actually given, and not just listed on the timetable.

"Sport is a good subject to teach but makes very high demands of the teacher," she says.

One not only has the impression that she is determined to meet these requirements but that her work is more important to her than her sporting ambitions — which range from the German championships in Essen to the Olympic Games in Moscow.

Hanisch is undoubtedly a ray of light in the jungle of the still miserable school sports system in this country.

She will make a fine teacher — provided of course that she gets a job at the beginning of the next school year.

Harald Pieper

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 19 January 1980)

Highly gifted

Continued from page 13

those who are not perhaps highly gifted. The important thing is to create contacts and help get these children out of their isolation."

Constant attention and advancement of children's special talents requires money.

At the moment the society relies entirely on donations and voluntary work by members. In the long run, the society hopes for state subsidies similar to those for the handicapped — because being highly gifted is a handicap requiring special help and attention.

Edelgard Simon

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 19 January 1980)

Continued from page 14

and might actually fail her probation period.

She and her brothers and sisters barely get time to play because their father insists that they study instead of wasting their time.

Jasin Abdelghani: "There is no end to learning." He quotes the Prophet, who said: "No gift from the parents is greater than good upbringing and education."

Small wonder, then, that the children feel like strangers in this country.

Milada and her eldest brother: "We want to go back to Amman." They have repeatedly been taken back to the fold of a large family in Amman. "There, we were the best in school," says Milada.

But every time Jasin Abdelghani was home he longed for Munich; and while in Munich he is homesick for Amman.

Sabine Reuter

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 17 January 1980)

Chinese athletes in Cologne to train for Olympics



A break from training: members of the Chinese Olympic Games squad relax in the snow in Cologne. High jumper Cheng Dachen (left) and javelin thrower Cui Yulin are two of a party of 10 who are training in Germany until April. (Photo: Werek)

A group of Chinese athletes is now in Cologne preparing for the Moscow Olympics. They will stay here until April 17. Asked why they chose to come to West Germany to train, their answers underline the present tense world political situation. "China and the Federal Republic are good friends now. The Soviet Union is also a top-class sporting nation. But we wanted to come to Germany. Germany is our friend." I asked Professor Huang Tsien, delegation leader and vice-president of the Chinese Olympic Committee, what he thought about a boycott of the Olympics: "Last October China again became a member of the International Olympic Committee. Then we said: 'We Chinese are ready'. But the international situation changes from day to day. We will have to see whether China takes part or not."

Apart from Huang Tsien and the 10 athletes, the group consists of six trainers, two doctors and an interpreter.

On their first day here, Interpreter Van praised the German talent for organisation.

His group had been carefully prepared by reading books and magazines for their visit to Germany. In Cologne they will have three lessons of German a week. They knew the score and had no difficulty handling a knife and fork.

Then came the first hitch. The bus that was to take them to a sportswear firm in Herzogenaurach broke down.

So much for German perfectionism!

Their German hosts beat their breasts but Huang delved again into the rich stock of Chinese quotations to smooth over the situation: "This we know: even *the sun has spots.*"

The Chinese girls now dress more colourfully. Three wore lilac scarves and carried handbags. One can talk to them all as if they were the girl next door.

The aim of the three-month stay is to find out the latest developments in sports science.

Three years ago, the Chinese were training their athletes according to methods used before the second world war. On the other hand, Professor Huang trained Ni Chin-chin to jump 2.29 metres in the high jump 10 years ago.

Chen Daches, 20, has jumped 1.89 in the high jump and is on the verge of world class.

We sports journalists will have to start noting these Chinese names very soon.

Robert Hartmann

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 21 January 1980)